

THE
HELMER

FAMILY

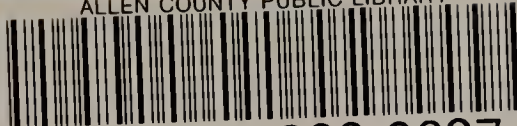
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THE
HELMER FAMILY

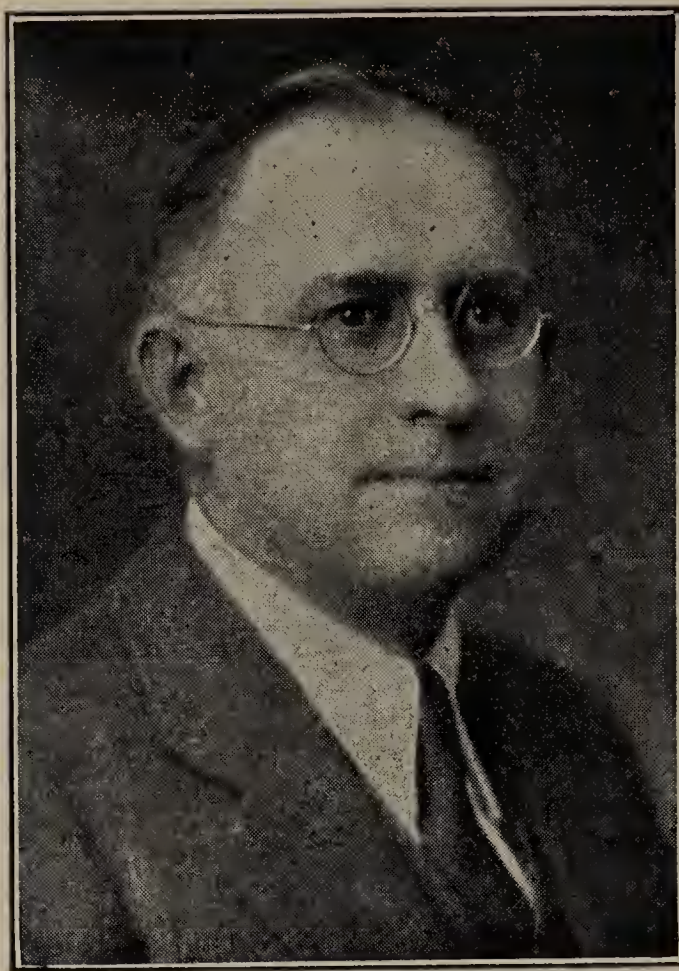
PHILIP HELMER (The Pioneer)
AND HIS DESCENDANTS



COMPILED BY
PASCOE W. WILLIAMS

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SKETCH OF THE COMPILER



PASCOE W. WILLIAMS

Pascoe W. Williams was born in the Town of Steuben, Oneida County, N. Y. January 19, 1880. After being graduated from the Holland Patent High School and the Albany Business College, he attended George Washington University. Later he was graduated from the Pace Institute of Accountancy.

In 1902 he entered the government service in Washington, D. C., where he was employed for eleven years as an auditor in the Treasury Department.

In 1913 he resigned his position at Washington and went to Albany as an accountant in the State service. He has passed the New York State examination for certified public accountant and by successive promotions has been advanced to the position of Chief Accountant in the State Comptroller's Office at Albany, where he is in charge of the accounting system of the State.

On July 29, 1903, he married Anna Dell Noble, daughter of George P. Noble and Mary Elizabeth Helmer of Boonville, N. Y.

They have a son Noble Stanton Williams who was graduated in 1929 from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with the degree of civil engineer and is now a patent examiner in the United States Patent Office at Washington, D. C. They also have two daughters, Dorothy Louise Williams who was graduated from Russell Sage College in 1929 and who is a girl scout director at Westfield, New Jersey and Marjorie Frances Williams who is now a student at Russell Sage College.

Mr. Williams is a member of the Board of Deacons of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church of Albany, one of the largest churches in the city. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Masonic Veterans Association.

FOREWORD

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In studying the early history of the Mohawk Valley, one must feel a reverence and admiration for those early pioneers who over two hundred years ago settled upon the Burnettsfield Patent on what was then the western frontier. During the French and Indian War of 1757 and 1758 their settlement was twice invaded and about one hundred of the inhabitants carried to Canada in captivity. During the Revolution their settlement was repeatedly invaded and for a time the inhabitants were obliged to abandon their homes and find protection farther down the valley. Is it any wonder that the early history of most of these families has in a great measure been lost? Few old church records prior to 1763 are available.

Perhaps one of the largest families in the upper Mohawk Valley was the Helmer Family. About twenty-five men by the name of Helmer served in the Revolution, and the husbands of about ten daughters also served. In addition there were probably others of the family whose Revolutionary service will never be known. Theirs has been the fate of "The Unknown Soldier."

When the Helmer articles first began in the Enterprise and News it was intended that they should only include the records of the family to the close of the Revolution. Such great interest has been shown and so much additional data furnished that the series has been continued, so far as possible, down to the present generation.

There are records of many unidentified Helmers to which particular attention is called in the hope that they also may be identified.

According to the Census of 1710 the pioneer ancestor Philip Helmer had six children, the records of but three being here given. The others are unknown. The three known sons were Lendert, Johan Adam and Frederick. It is not definitely known if the first two sons had other children than those mentioned, but it is definitely known from an old will that the son Frederick had eight children. However, the names of only four or five of these children are known.

Thus it will be seen that at the very beginning of the Helmer Family there added, the record of the Helmer family would be much larger. added many missing lines. Could these early missing lines be traced and

There are given here over three thousand names, yet the list is far from complete. In fact, the task is hardly more than begun. It is hoped that enough interest has been created in order to continue the task so as to make it more complete. Records from family Bibles prior and during the Revolution are particularly desired. During that period the church records are very incomplete.

ASSISTANCE APPRECIATED.

The author deeply appreciates the very valuable assistance of many members of the Helmer family. Over one hundred letters have been received, but a list of the senders is too long to be inserted here.

PASCOE W. WILLIAMS.

HELMERS IN THE REVOLUTION

Names on the Oriskany Monument

Captain Frederick F. Helmer, killed at the Battle of Oriskany.

Lieutenant George F. Helmer, wounded at the Battle of Oriskany.

Lieutenant Adam F. Helmer, scout who carried messages.

(Note—The above three were brothers).

Philip Helmer of Manheim.

Names of Soldiers who Fought at Oriskany, whose Names are not on the Oriskany Roster

Han Adam Helmer, killed at the Battle of Oriskany.

John G. Helmer.

Also a brother of John G. Helmer (name unknown) killed at Oriskany.

Captain Peter Bowman (husband of Catharine Helmer) killed at Oriskany.

Additional Helmers who Served in the Revolution

Dietrich Helmer.

Frederick A. Helmer.

Frederick F. Helmer, Jr.

George P. Helmer.

Godfrid Helmer, Jr., (probably the brother of John G. Helmer mentioned as having been killed at Oriskany).

Hanyost Helmer.

Henry A. Helmer.

John Helmer.

John Helmer, Jr.

John F. Helmer.

John P. Helmer.

Joseph Helmer.

Lenerd Helmer.

Lenerd L. Helmer, Jr.

Philip F. Helmer.

Captain Philip Helmer.

Helmer Grandson in the Revolution

John Ernest Pier, son of Anna Magdalena Helmer.

Helmer Sons-in-Law in the Revolution

Ichabod Bany, husband of Elizabeth Margaret Helmer.

Frederick Baum, husband of Elizabeth Helmer.

Adam Harter, husband of Elizabeth (Betsy) Helmer.

Thomas Getman, husband of Elizabeth Helmer.

George Haynes, husband of Anna Sophia Pier and son-in-law of Anna Magdalena Helmer.

John Kessler, husband of Gertrude Helmer.

Henry Nellis, husband of Christina Helmer.

Peter Hoyer, husband of Anna Maria Helmer.

Frederick Riegel, husband of Catharine Helmer.

Jacob G. Weber, husband of Anna Margaret Helmer.

Adolph Walrad, husband of Catharine Helmer.

The Helmer Family

Pioneers and Patriots



BY PASCOE W. WILLIAMS

Together with the Complete Pension Papers Attached to the Claim
of Anna P. Bellinger Widow of the Revolutionary Scout Adam
F. Helmer.

CHAPTER I

The Palatine Immigration

Philip Helmer is supposed to have been the first of that name to have settled in the Mohawk Valley. He was one of the German immigrants from the Lower Palatinate of the Rhine in Germany. Because of religious persecution in Germany as a result of the religious wars in Europe, of which Germany was the battlefield nearly one hundred years, the sympathy of Queen Anne of England was aroused in 1708 and the immigration of the German Palatines to New York began.

In the first quarter of the eighteenth century, three bodies of these people arrived in New York, having been sent over at the expense of the British government. By an order in council made at Whitehall, England, May 10, 1708, it appears that Joshua Kockerthal, evangelical minister and several poor Lutherans, had come to England from the Lower Palatinate in Germany, being forty one persons, ten men, ten women and twenty-one

children. They are described as having been reduced to want by the ravages of the French in their country, and are represented as being of good character. This paper states they would have been sent to Jamaica or Antigua, but it was feared the hot climate of those islands would prove injurious to their constitutions. It was finally concluded to send them to the colony of New York, where they could be employed in obtaining naval stores after being seated on the frontiers as a barrier against the French and their Indians.

This was the vanguard which was to be planted in advance of the population then in the province as a barrier against the common enemy. This company probably arrived at New York about the close of the year 1708. In the year 1714 we find the Lutheran minister Joshua Kockerthal settled in Ulster county and hence it will be inferred that most if not all of the first company which came over followed their spiritual teacher and remained with him.

The second and more numerous

company of Palatines arrived at New York a short time before June 13, 1710, and in consequence of sickness during the voyage they were directed to remain in quarantine on Governor's Island, where huts were erected for them and provisions furnished at the public expense. More than three thousand emigrants came over about this time. It was asserted by Governor Hunter that over four hundred and seventy died on the passage and ten vessels were employed in bringing them to their future homes.

The third company of Palatine immigrants arrived in New York in October, 1722. The ship in which they came had lost many of its passengers during the voyage.

It is not known whether Philip Helmer and his family came in the first or second company of immigrants.

In a report of the commissioners of the board of trade and plantations, dated December 5, 1709, in pointing out the place most suitable for seating the Palatines, the commissioners designate "a tract of land lying on the Mohaques (Mohawk) River, containing about fifty miles in length, and four miles in breadth, and a tract of land lying upon a creek (evidently the Schoharie) which runs into said river, containing between twenty-four and thirty miles in length. This last mentioned land is claimed by the Mohaques, but that claim may be satisfied on very easy terms." (See Benton's History of Herkimer County).

The Census of 1710

According to a census taken in the winter of 1710 (Documentary History of New York, Vol. 3, Page 343) of the Palatine families on the west side of the Hudson River, now Ulster county, the following is found:

"Philip Helmer, 2 men. 2 lads from 9 to 15 years old. 1 boy from 8 years and under. 1 woman. 2 maids from 9 to 15 years. Total of persons 8."

The two men mentioned in the Census of 1710 were Philip Helmer

and his eldest son Lendert who was over 18 years of age at that time.

Philip Helmer, the pioneer ancestor was probably born about the year 1670 or before. The census of 1710 would indicate that he had six children born between the years 1690 and 1710. These dates of course can only be approximate. He died some time before 1741. There seems to be no information as to the name of his wife.

The names of his children and the approximate dates of their births are as follows:

1 Lendert born about 1690 or 1692, or thereabouts.

2 Johan Adam born about 1695 to 1701.

3 Son, born about 1695 to 1701.

4 Daughter born about 1695 to 1701.

5 Daughter born about 1695 to 1701.

6 Frederick born about 1702 to 1710

The reason for putting the ages of these sons in this order is that Lendert had a son born in 1715, Johan Adam had a son born in 1725 and Frederick had children born from 1735 or 1740 to 1754. Also it would appear that Frederick Helmer was unmarried at the time of the grant of the Burnettsfield Patent April 30, 1725 as no wife was mentioned.

This would indicate that Philip Helmer and his family lived in Ulster county in the winter of 1710, but there appears to be no definite record of their arrival or departure from Ulster county.

The Settlement of Schoharie

We next find a record of his family at Schoharie. Philip Helmer and his son Lendert with other Palatines from Schoharie were naturalized October 11, 1715, which naturalization list was recorded at Albany, N. Y. Lendert and his wife Elizabeth (probably Ruhl, also called Reals and Riegal) had a son Godfrid born Dec. 17, 1715, at Schoharie. Sponsors Gottfried Ruhl and wife.

There appears no record to show how long the family stayed at Schoharie. The next record shows their

names among the Burnettsfield Patentees in Herkimer County.

The Burnettsfield Patent

The Burnettsfield Patent was granted April 30, 1725. It recites that "whereas our loving subjects, John Joost Patri and Coenradt Rickert, in behalf of themselves and other distressed Palatines, by their humble petition presented the 17th day of January, 1722, to our trusty and well beloved William Burnett, Esq., Captain General and Governor in chief of the province of New York, in council have set forth that in accordance with the governor's license they had purchased of the native Indians at the Mohawks country the tract of land on both sides of the Mohawks river commencing at the first carrying place (Little Falls), being the easternmost bounds called by the natives Astourogon, running along on both sides of the said river westerly unto a place called Gauondagaraon, or the upper end of it, being about twenty-four English miles along both sides of the said river." The Indian deed was dated July 9, 1722. The council advised the Governor to "grant to each of the said persons, man, woman and child, as are desirous to settle within the limits of the said tract of land the quantity of one hundred acres."

In the list of Burnettsfield Patentees Philip Helmer was granted Lot 25 of 100 acres on the north side of the Mohawk River and on the east side of the West Canada Creek.

His son Lendert Helmer was granted Lot 21 of 100 acres on the north side of the Mohawk river. Elizabeth wife of Lendert Helmer, was granted Lot 14 of 100 acres also on the north side of the Mohawk river.

Another son Johan Adam Helmer was granted Lot 6 of 100 acres on the north side of the Mohawk river and Anna Margaret, his wife, was granted Lot 12 of 100 acres on the south side of the Mohawk river.

A third son Frederick, probably

the youngest and unmarried at that time was granted Lot. 1 of 100 acres on the north side of the Mohawk river.

No grants appear to have been made to the other son and two daughters mentioned in the Census of 1710. Whether this son may have died and the two daughters married will perhaps remain a mystery.

According to the "New York Land Papers" the following condition existed in 1741:

Philip Helmer, Lot 25, dead.

Lendert Helmer, Lot 21, removed.

The following were apparently alive, owning their respective lots:

Elizabeth Helmer, Lot 14.

Johan Adam Helmer, Lot 6.

Frederick Helmer, Lot 1.

Why Elizabeth Helmer, wife of Lendert, still owned Lot 14, while her husband had moved away, is unexplainable. She had probably moved with her husband and still owned Lot 14.

To confirm the removal of Lendert Helmer from German Flatts prior to 1741 as shown by the "New York Land Papers," we find in the record of the Reformed Dutch Church at Fort Plain, formerly known as the Reformed Calvinist Church of Canajohary, a "Statement of the Churches of the River and Stone Arabia" dated July 14, 1751. This statement was signed by Leonhardt Helmer and his two sons Gottfried Helmer and Johann Leonhardt Helmer. Also in 1751 Lendert Helmer and his son Johann Leonhardt Helmer were members of the Stone Arabia consistory.

In the "Annual Report of the New York State Historian, 1896, Colonial Series, Vol. 11," appears the names of many men by the name of Helmer who served in the Colonial Wars. The record is as follows:

Bornets Field (Burnettsfield) May 9, 1767. Captain Marx Petry's Company:—Frederick Hellmer, Sergeant, and John Hellmer, Frederick Hellmer, Phillip Hellmer, Adam Hellmer and Henry Hellmer, privates.

Philip Helmer had twenty-six grand

children, of which at least twenty-two have been identified. These were the children of the three sons, Lendert, Johan Adam and Frederick. He may have had grandchildren by his two daughters and son whose names are unknown.

He had over ninety great grandchildren. Many of his grandsons and great grandsons were in the Revolution. One grandson and one great grandson were killed at the Battle of Oriskany and one great grand daughter was left a widow after that battle.

The Revolutionary war record of over thirty Helmer sons and sons-in-law will be given in later articles.

The Helmer family was a typical Mohawk Valley family, often there being eight to thirteen children. Among the Helmer marriages before the year 1800 we find the following well known Mohawk valley names: Barse, Bell, Bellinger, Bowman, Cady, Clapsale, Cook, Dygert, Ecker, Ehle, Eygenbrodt, Flint, Folts, Fox, Fulmer, Getman, Harter, Hess, Hilts, Kast, Kessler, Klock, Manterbach, Myers, Nellis, Passage, Petry, Rasbach, Riegel, Schell, Shoemaker, Shepperman, Starring, Thumb, Van Slyke, Walradt, Weber, Zimmerman others.

CHAPTER II.

Lendert Helmer

Lendert Helmer², son of Philip¹, was a Burnettsfield Patentee, being granted Lot 21 of 100 acres on the North side of the Mohawk river. His wife Elizabeth (probably Ruhl or Riegel) was granted Lot 14 of 100 acres also on the North side of the river. This Patent was granted April 30, 1723. While there appears to be no definite record of his birth, we can assume the date of his birth by that of the birth of his eldest son Godfrid born either Dec. 17 or 27, 1715. The old family Bible gives the date of Godfrid's birth as Dec. 17, 1715, while the Kockerthal Church record gives his birth as Dec. 27, 1715

and his baptism as Jan. 24, 1716. In Lendert Helmer's will he mentions Godfrid as his eldest son.

Lendert Helmer was naturalized October 11, 1715, at which time he was living at Schoharie, N. Y. In the census of 1710 he is probably one of the two men of the Helmer family. This would place the approximate date of his birth as from 1690 to 1692; possibly as late as 1694, but not later.

Lendert Helmer lived to a very old age. His will was dated June 27, 1781, and probated April 28, 1791. No mention of his wife was made in his will, so it is probable that she had died previously. His will mentions two sons Philip and Johannes (John), heirs of deceased eldest son Godfrid; grandson Hanajost of Johannes to whom was given a large Bible; his brother Adam and son Hendrick A.; his daughters Maria Margred wife of John Headcock (Hatcock); Gertroud wife of Jacob Krouss; Anna Magdalena wife of Philip Peer; and Elizabeth wife of Peter Eygenbrodt.

The witnesses to the will were Johannes Nellis, Johannes Flander and Richard Young.

The executors of his will were Colonel Peter Waggoner, Peter Wormwood of Palatine and Peter Dygert of Canajohary.

His will mentions seven of his children. There is ample proof in the Stone Arabia Reformed Church record and in deed records of another son Johann Leonhardt, known as Leonard, Jr., who probably died before the date of his father's will.

Lendert Helmer and his wife Elizabeth had the following children:

1. Godfrid, born Dec. 17 or 27, 1715, at Schoharie. Sponsors Godfrid Ruhl and wife. Godfrid Helmer married (1st) April 6, 1737, Magdalena or Laura Ehle and (2nd) Anna Margretha —. Nine children.

2. Philip. No further record. There were three Philips of this generation and what little information available is confusing. Can anyone supply any further information.

3. Johann Leonhardt, known as Leonard, Jr., married before 1751, Catherine Nellis, born Jan. 18, 1724, died Aug. 20, 1805, aged 81 years, 7 months, 2 days (tombstone record.) She was the daughter of Christian Nellis and Barvalis (Barbara) Klock and grand daughter of Hendrick Klock, pioneer. One son by this marriage. Catherine Nellis married for her second husband Col. Jacob Klock. No children by this marriage.

4. Anna Magdalena, born about 1720, married Dec. 15, 1741, Philip Peer (Pier). Two children.

5. Johnnes (John) married Feb. 7, 1760, Gertrude Bell, daughter of Frederick Bell. Four children.

6. Maria Margred, married before July 15, 1766, John Headcock (Hatcock).

7. Gertroud, married before 1751, Jacob Krouss, Jr. (son of Jacob Krouss, Sr.) Two children.

8. Elizabeth, married before 1765, Peter Eygenbrodt. Two children.

John Adam Helmer

John Adam Helmer², known as Adam, son of Philip¹ and his wife Anna Margaret—were also Burnettsfield Patentees. He was granted Lot 6 of 100 acres on the north side of the Mohawk river and his wife was granted Lot 12 of 100 acres on the South side of the river. He was probably born between 1695 and 1701, one of the sons mentioned as being between nine and fifteen years of age in the Census of 1710.

He died after June 27, 1781, being mentioned in the will of his brother Lendert Helmer, this being the date of the will.

From the "New York Land Papers" he still owned Lot 6 of the Burnettsfield in 1741.

Children of Johan Adam Helmer and his wife Anna Margaret—were:

1. Frederick A., born Aug. 16, 1725, died March 5, 1804, married Barbara Elizabeth Homan, born in Holland who came to America in 1754. Four children. Frederick A. Helmer was a soldier in the Revolution.

2. Leonard. This is another record difficult to trace out. It is believed he was the one who married before 1752 Catherine Zimmerman. Has anyone any further information? They were the parents of one son Leonard, Jr., a soldier of the Revolution.

3. Catharine married Dec. 26, 1759, Frederick Riegel, son of Godfrid Riegel. Five children. Frederick Riegel was a soldier in the Revolution and was taken captive and held a prisoner over two years.

4. Elizabeth Margaret, known as Elizabeth, married Sept. 30, 1760, Icabod Baani (Bany), son of Joseph Baani. Four children. Icabod Baani was a soldier in the Revolution.

5. Johan Adam, known as Han Adam and Adam, Jr. married Jan. 6, 1763, Maria Beersch (Barse or Burch). Four children. Han Adam Helmer was killed at the Battle of Oriskany, August 6, 1777.

6. Margaret, married March 15, 1763, Christian Riegel, son of Godfrid Riegel. Three children.

7. Philip, married (1st) before 1757 (wife's name unknown) and married (2nd) May 4, 1762, Maria Philippina Ecker. Two children, one by each marriage. Philip Helmer was a soldier in the Revolution.

8. Gertrude, married May 10, 1763, John Kessler, a soldier in the Revolution. Five children.

9. John, married Aug. 11, 1767, Margaret Mayer. Two children.

10. Henry A., born 1747, died May 15 1815, married Maria Elizabeth —, born 1752, died April 14, 1819. Eight children. Henry A. Helmer was a soldier in the Revolution.

Frederick Helmer

Frederick Helmer², son of Philip¹, was probably born between 1702 and 1710, the son mentioned in the Census of 1710 as being under eight years of age. He was granted Lot 1 of 100 acres of the Burnettsfield Patent on the north side of the Mohawk river. In all probability he was unmarried at the time the patent was

granted as no wife was mentioned. He owned Lot 1 of the Burnettsfield Patent in 1741 according to "New York Land Papers."

He married Maria Barbara Kast, the daughter of John George Kast and his wife Anna——. John George Kast was also a Burnettsfield patentee.

Maria Barbara Kast died before April 30, 1755, the date of her father's will.

The will of John George Kast, dated April 30, 1755, reads in part as follows:

"Sixthly, I will that the children procreated by Frederick Helmer and my daughter Maria Barbara shall have fifteen pounds in current money of New York and be freed of all the debts they owe me, none for them to pay."

"Tenthly, it is further my will that my personal estate or the remains of my effects shall devolve on and come to all my children share and share alike, the one no more than the other. But the eight children Maria Barbara had by Frederick Helmer must have amongst them all only so much as one of my own children."

Thus it will be seen that Frederick Helmer and his wife Maria Barbara Kast had eight children, but the names of only four of these are known. The others may have been daughters who married of which there is no record. It may also be possible that they may have perished in the German Flatts massacres of 1757 and 1758. Seventy inhabitants were killed in these massacres and many were carried to Canada in captivity.

The four known children of Frederick Helmer and his wife Maria Barbara Kast were as follows:

1. Frederick F., probably the eldest, married before 1760 (1st) Edwina or Sabina —— who died about 1769. Her last name may have been either Hiltz or Schumacher. Frederick F. married (2nd) about 1770 Elizabeth Dygert, born 1749, the daughter of William

Dygert and his wife Maria Elizabeth Ecker. Frederick F. Helmer was a member of the Tryon County Committee of Safety from the German Flatts District in 1775. His name is on the Oriskany Monument as a captain in the Revolution. He was killed at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777. Ten children, six by the first marriage and four by the second marriage.

2. George F., born October 23, 1739 died March 23, 1823, aged 82 years, 5 months. He married Jan. 9, 1770 Margaret Mayer, who died Feb. 26, 1818, aged 66 years. Both are buried in the Columbia cemetery, Herkimer county. He was a lieutenant under Colonel Peter Bellinger at the Battle of Oriskany where he was wounded. Eight children.

3. Philip F., born about 1740, died June 8, 1830, married July 17, 1764, Anna Mayer, born 1747, died Aug. 12, 1829. He was a soldier in the Revolution. Five children.

4. Adam F., also known as Johan Adam F., born 1754, died April, 1830 at Brutus, Cayuga county, N. Y. He married Feb. 27, 1776, Anna Bellinger, daughter of Peter Bellinger. Anna Bellinger was born 1757, died Jan. 25, 1841, at Brutus, Cayuga county, N. Y. Adam F. Helmer was the celebrated scout of the Mohawk valley in the Revolution. He was a lieutenant in the scouts, also known as Rangers. His pension record is to be printed in the Enterprise and News soon and will be read with interest by descendants of the Mohawk Valley families. His experience is typical of the hardships of the Mohawk Valley families during the Revolution. Three times his home and all his belongings were burned by the enemy. He carried messages from General Herkimer to Colonel Ganesvoort who was besieged by St. Leger at Fort Stanwix. The garrison at Fort Stanwix was in grave danger, being outnumbered nearly three to one. Adam F. Helmer waded the river with the messages in his hat to keep them dry and went through the enemy's lines in

safety to the fort. At the battle of Oriskany he was not with General Herkimer's forces but having arrived at the fort, he sallied forth with Colonel Willett's men to attack the enemy in the rear.

Adam F. Helmer and his wife Anna Bellinger were the parents of ten children.

CHAPTER III.

New York Men in the Revolution

Robert's "New York in the Revolution," published in 1904, was prepared under the direction of Hon. James A. Roberts, State Comptroller. It was a reprint with many additions and much new material of the first edition prepared by the State of New York in 1897. It was published in two volumes with a total of 870 pages.

These volumes were prepared from large quantities of forgotten papers relating to the services performed by New York in the Revolutionary war. These papers contained the muster and pay rolls of different organizations. Their historic value and importance was clearly proved by the fact that New York furnished nearly two and one-half times the number of troops in the Revolution with which the colony had formerly been credited. General Henry Knox, first Secretary of War under President Washington, in a report to Congress of the number of troops furnished by each colony, gave New York credit for 17,781 men. Robert's "New York in the Revolution" contains the names of 43,645 men, with their rank and organization. This book does not give all the names from New York who fought in the Revolution, as numerous cases were found in which records of a full quota of field, staff and line officers for a regiment are given, but no enlisted men. This is explained by the fact that it was not uncommon for the officer commanding the organization to retain all the records relating to his command.

General Nicholas Herkimer's name appears but a few times in these volumes, being in a list of persons whose service was evidenced by manuscripts on file in the State Comptroller's Office, but whose names were not found on the papers of any of the regular organizations. All records have been lost of the 850 men who marched from Fort Dayton under the command of General Herkimer to the Battle of Oriskany. The bronze tablets on the Oriskany Monument contain the names of 491 men known to have fought in that battle, leaving upwards of 360 who took part whose names will remain unknown until they are brought forth from old pension records, Bible and other family records.

Additional Names for the Oriskany Roster

Among the names inscribed on the Oriskany Battlefield Monument are those of Captain Frederick F. Helmer, killed in that battle, and his two brothers Lieutenant George F. Helmer, wounded, and Lieutenant Johan Adam F. Helmer, the celebrated scout. Philip Helmer of Manheim also fought in the battle of Oriskany. Among the pension papers of John G. Helmer, filed in the Pension Office at Washington, are records which show additional names of persons at the Battle of Oriskany. In his pension application John G. Helmer states he fought at the Battle of Oriskany. He also states that a brother was killed in that battle but does not give the name of his brother. He also says that his brother-in-law Captain Peter Bowman was also killed at that time. Han Adam Helmer, a cousin of Adam F., the scout, was also killed at the Battle of Oriskany, according to the old church records. These are four names which are not now inscribed upon the Oriskany Roster but should be added.

Thirty Helmer Names in Roster of Revolution

In Robert's "New York in the Re-

volution" the names of thirty men by the name of Helmer appear. This name is variously spelled as Halmer, Hellmer, Helmore, and Hollmer.

The name of John Helmer appears in all nine times and one is almost led to believe there must be a duplication of names, as it would seem impossible for one man by that name to have had so many periods of enlistment in so many different organizations. But such was not the case, as from the pension records we find three men by the name of John Helmer in the same regiment and to distinguish them they were called John G., John P. and John F. taking the initial of their father in each case, i. e., Godfrid, Philip and Frederick. In addition there were several other John Helmers living at that time, some of whom may have been in the Revolution, but are still unidentified.

Of the thirty or more Helmer names who were in the Revolution, about twenty-five were from the Mohawk Valley, the others being from the southern part of the state.

Absence of Records Prior to and During Revolution.

In tracing the lineage of the Helmer Family, one is met with many difficulties, sometimes lack of church records and Bible records, similarity of names, and at times almost a complete lack of all records. This is particularly true of the period prior to 1763. At this time Dominie Abraham Rosencrantz began keeping records of the German Flatts Reformed Church, and for a time they were quite complete. The records of the Stone Arabia Reformed and Lutheran Churches began about 1739, but there were few Helmer records found in those churches, prior to 1763. During the period of the Revolution the records are quite incomplete, particularly as to marriages and deaths.

German Flatts Massacre

At three o'clock of the morning of November 12, 1757, a force of three

hundred French and Indians surprised the settlement of German Flatts, now Herkimer. The settlement extended on both sides of the Mohawk river. About forty inhabitants were killed and many carried to Canada in captivity. Sixty dwellings and a large number of barns were destroyed.

Another attack was made upon German Flatts on April 30, 1758, at which time thirty inhabitants were killed.

Brant's Raid on Herkimer and the Mohawk Valley in 1778

About the middle of September, 1778, four scouts were sent out from German Flatts to learn the intentions of Brant who was at Unadilla preparing to make an attack upon the Mohawk Valley, with a force of 350 Tories and Indians. The four scouts met Brant's force at Edmeston, about thirty miles south of Herkimer. Three scouts were killed, but the fourth Johan Adam F. Helmer escaped and reached German Flatts just before sunrise to give the warning that Brant and his allies were close at hand. The inhabitants barely had sufficient time to reach the forts before the attack. Before daylight on the morning of September 7, 1779, the whole valley was ablaze with burning buildings. Every building for ten miles along both sides of the river was destroyed. The destruction was complete. Every domestic animal, over 730 in number had been driven away. Sixty-three houses, fifty seven barns, three grist mills and two saw-mills with all their contents were reduced to ashes. No attempt was made to capture the forts, where the inhabitants had taken refuge and were safe, thanks to the courageous scout Johan Adam F. Helmer.

Between 300 and 400 militia followed Brant as far as Edmeston, where the bodies of the three murdered scouts were found and buried. The friendly Oneida Indians went as far as the Unadilla Valley, burned the

houses of some Tories took several prisoners and brought back some of the cattle that had been driven away from German Flatts.

Scout Adam Helmer's Wild Ride to Save the Settlement

In his headlong flight of about thirty miles through the forest, the scout's clothing was torn to tatters, his limbs, face and hands lacerated and bleeding from the brambles and bushes through which he forced his way, his eyes blood-shot, yet with superhuman endurance he reached the settlement in safety and gave the alarm.

Perhaps to no other man does the Mohawk Valley owe more than to Johan Adam F. Helmer, the celebrated scout—never afraid of Tories or Indians—whose fearless courage saved the settlement of German Flatts from another midnight massacre. His pension record soon to be published in the *Enterprise* and *News* shows he was always among the foremost in resisting and pursuing the enemy and a leader when there was danger.

Lendert Helmer Patentee

A part of the family of Lendert Helmer, Patentee, had removed from German Flatts or Burnettsfield prior to 1741. In 1751 they lived in the vicinity of Stone Arabia, about thirty miles distant. Two sons of Johan Adam Helmer (brother of Lendert), also Patentee, had removed to Stone Arabia. These families escaped the terrible massacres of German Flatts. Johan Adam Helmer and some of his family remained in the vicinity of German Flatts. Johan Adam Helmer, Patentee should not be confused with his nephew Johan Adam F. Helmer, the celebrated scout of the Revolution.

Frederick Helmer, Patentee

The family of the third brother Frederick Helmer, Patentee, was located on Lot 1, the most westerly lot

of the Burnettsfield Patent on the north side of the Mohawk river. This family was the most exposed in the entire settlement to the attacks of the Indians from the west. Is it little wonder that records of only four of his eight children can be found? This family remained in the vicinity of German Flatts, as did one or two sons of Lendert. These suffered the greatest from the Indian and Tory raids prior to and during the Revolution.

No doubt a number of Helmers were killed during the Indian raids and during the Revolution of which there is no record. Records are found of births and marriages and children born, then no further record.

Of the twenty-five or so by the name of Helmer from the Mohawk Valley who served in the Revolution, about twenty-one have been either partially or completely identified. There are also records of about ten men who served in the Revolution who married Helmer daughters. The records of these men will be given in later articles.

Difficulties Multiplied by Similarity of Names

It is in the fourth generation of the Helmer family that the greatest difficulty is encountered in identifying the different persons on account of the similarity of names. One can imagine that there is considerable difficulty in trying to trace the various members of the Helmer family when there are found prior to the year 1800 eight by the name of Leonard, ten by the name of Adam, nine by the name of Philip, thirteen by the name of Elizabeth, twenty-one by the name of Johannes or John, nine by the name of Margaret and so on all long the line. It is impossible for one person to successfully trace these various lines, and it will be only by the united effort of all those interested that the genealogy of this numerous family can be straightened out. Many lines are far from complete, and there are occasionally conflict-

ing records. Even in the old church records there are positive errors, in some instances the names of the grandparents being given instead of the parents. It is hoped that others will take an interest and help fill in the missing gaps of the Helmer family, with any corrections, additions or suggestions. In this way we may hope to build a fairly good foundation for the genealogy of the Helmer family.

CHAPTER IV

Helmers in the Revolution Continued

The following records of men by the name of Helmer who served in the Revolution have been procured from many sources. It is impossible to state if they include all the Helmers who served in the Revolution, but it is believed there are no duplicates. Very likely there were other men by the name of Hanjost, John and Philip than those mentioned in this list. There were so many of each name old enough to have been in the Revolution that it is difficult to obtain all their records.

The men from New York in service during the Revolution were divided into four groups: (1) those who served in the Continental Army under the command of Continental authorities and not under the direction or control of the State. They were known as Continentals or Regulars; (2) the militia, a portion of which was organized as minutemen for several years; (3) the levies, a term used to indicate drafts for short periods of service and specific organizations enlisted for defense of the frontiers; (4) those who served in the navy.

Many men perhaps had service in several different regiments, and when there were several men by the same name in Tryon County, the task is a difficult one. It is hoped that any one having corrections, additions or suggestions will send them to the author.

Many of these men have been only

partially identified, while the records of others are fairly complete. It is earnestly hoped that others will add as much information as possible.

The Roster

Adam F. (Johan Adam F.) Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹. Lieutenant in Captain John Breadbake's Company of Rangers (Scouts), Tryon County Militia. Born 1754, died April 1830. Married February 27, 1776 Anna Bellinger, born 1757, died January 25, 1841. Ten children. (Pension record).

Dietrich Helmer⁴, John³, Lendert², Philip¹. Private in First Regiment, New York Line, commanded by Colonel Van Schaick. Born September, 1763. No further record.

Frederick A. Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹. Private in Captain Henry Herder's Company, Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia, commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. Born August 16, 1725, died March 5, 1804. married Barbara Elizabeth Homan, born in Holland. Four children.

Frederick F. Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹. Member of the Tryon County Committee of Safety from the German Flatts District. Captain in the Tryon County Militia, Fourth Regiment, commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. Killed at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777. Married (1st) Sabina or Edwina —; (2nd) Elizabeth Dygert. Ten children, six by the first marriage and four by the second marriage. One son John F. was a soldier in the Revolution.

George F. Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹. Lieutenant in Captain Jacob Small's Company, Fourth Regiment Tryon County Militia, commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. Wounded at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777. Born October 23, 1739, died March 23, 1823. Married January 9, 1770, Margaret Mayer, died February 26, 1818. Eight children. (Pension record).

George P. Helmer⁴, Philip³, Frederick², Philip¹. Private. One of the

youngest soldiers in the Revolution, being less than fifteen years of age when the war ended. As a young lad he did sentinel duty at Fort Dayton, unsing a pitchfork as a weapon as there were not guns enough for all. This information was obtained from an old letter written by a grandson many years ago. Perhaps his name was not on any muster roll. His father also was a soldier in the Revolution. George P. was born March 25, 1769, died September 14, 1849. Married May 11, 1790 Catherine Staring. Twelve children.

Godfrid Helmer⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹. Private in Captain John Winn's Company of Rangers (Scouts), Tryon County Militia. Born January 31, 1760. No further record. Was he the brother killed August 6, 1777 at the Battle of Oriskany, mentioned in the Pension application of John G. Helmer.

Hanyost Helmer⁴, John³, Lendert², Philip¹. Private in the Line, First Regiment, commanded by Colonel Van Schaick; also private in the Albany County Militia, Second Regiment, commanded by Colonel Wemple. Mentioned in his grandfather's will. No record as to his birth, marriage or death.

Han Adam Helmer³ Adam², Philip¹. Private in Tryon County Militia under General Herkimer. No record as to which regiment he belonged. Killed at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777. Married January 6, 1763, Maria Beersch (Barse or Burch). Four children.

Henry Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹. Sergeant in Captain John Hess's Company; also sergeant in Captain Peter Wagner's Company, Second Regiment Tryon County Militia, commanded by Colonel Jacob Klock. Born 1747, died May 15, 1815. Married Maria Elizabeth born 1852, died April 14, 1819. Seven children.

John F. Helmer⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹. Private in Captain Peter B. Tearne's Company,

commanded by Colonels Willett and Van Schaick. Born September 3, 1765, died November 26, 1829. Married Easter Sunday, 1797, Margaret Manterbach born 1780, died after 1855. Ten children. (Pension record). His father was Captain Frederick F. Helmer killed at the Battle of Oriskany, mentioned above.

John G. Helmer⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹. Private in Captain William Fox's Company, commanded by Colonel Cox; also in Captain Gray's Company commanded by Colonel Ganesvoort in the New York Line. Also other service. Born January 15, 1758, died August 5, 1837. Married Magdalena (Margaret) Ehle, born 1760. Six children (Pension Record) In his pension record John G. Helmer states that his brother was killed at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777; this brother was probably Godfrid born January 31, 1760, mentioned above.

John P. Helmer⁴, Philip³, (?², Philip¹. Private in Captain Jacob Shaver or Seaver's Company, commanded by Colonel Willett. Who was his grandfather? John P. Helmer was born July 7, 1757, died January 20, 1833. Married Mary born 1768. Eight children. John P. Helmer was a prisoner of war at Niagara, Canada, over two years; released at the close of the Revolution. (Pension record).

John Helmer. Private in Tryon County Militia, Second Regiment, commanded by Colonel Klock. In all probability he was of the third generation of Helmers, the son of either Adam² or Lendert (2), Philip¹. Can anyone furnish any further information?

John Helmer, Jr., private in the New York Line, First Regiment, commanded by Colonel Van Schaick. He was probably the son of the man above mentioned. Is there any further information available?

Joseph (Jost) Helmer⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹. Private in First Regiment, Tryon County Militia,

commanded by Colonel Samuel Campbell. Born February 8, 1762, died February 12, 1820. Married September 16, 1786-8, Susanna Flint. Eight children.

Lenerd Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹. Private in Tryon County Militia, Second Regiment, commanded by Colonel Klock. Married Catharine Zimmerman. One son Lenerd, Jr., born August 8, 1752.

Lenerd L. Helmer, Jr.⁴, Lenerd³, Adam², Philip¹. Private in Tryon County Militia, Second Regiment, commanded by Colonel Klock. Born August 8, 1752.

Philip Helmer. Captain in Tryon County Militia, Second Regiment, commanded by Colonel Klock. He does not seem to be either of the two men by the same name mentioned below. Has anyone any further information?

Philip Helmer⁴ Philip³, ?², Philip¹. Private in Captain Andrew Finck's and Captain Hamtramik's Companies, commanded by Colonel Van Schaick and Colonel Du Bois, First Regiment, New York Line. Born June 11, 1757. Married May 9, 1783, Margaret Bellinger, born 1750. One son, perhaps more. (Pension and old Bible record.) Who was his grandfather?

Philip F. Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹. According to an old letter he was a soldier in the Revolution. Born 1740, died June 8, 1830. Married July 17, 1764 Anna Mayer born 1747, died August 12, 1829. Five children, one of whom was George P., also a soldier in the Revolution, mentioned above.

Helmer Sons-in-law

Peter Baumann (Bowman) first husband of Catherine Helmer⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹. Captain in Tryon County Militia commanded by General Herkimer. Killed at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777. Married Catharine Helmer September 7, 1767. No record of children by this marriage. (This record found in pension record of John G. Helmer).

Adolph Walrad (Walrath) second husband of Catharine Helmer⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹. Private in Tryon County Militia, Second Regiment commanded by Colonel Klock. Married Catharine Helmer. Four children.

Ichabod Bany (Banni) husband of Elizabeth Margaret Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹. Private in Tryon County Militia Fourth Regiment, commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. Married September 30, 1760. Four children. One son John was probably a soldier in the Revolution.

Thomas Getman husband of Elizabeth Helmer⁴, probably the daughter of Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹. Private in Tryon County Militia, Second Regiment, commanded by Colonel Klock, also private in the Tryon County Militia, Rangers (Scouts) under Captain Getman. Elizabeth Helmer was born 1753, died October 6, 1837. Thomas Getman was born November 15, 1752, died December 25, 1820. Three children.

George Haynes husband of Anna Sophia Pier⁴ Anna Magdalena Helmer³, Lendert², Philip¹. Private in Tryon County Militia, Rangers (Scouts), under Captain John Kasselmann. Married Anna Sophia Pier, born March 23, 1751, daughter of Anna Magdalena Helmer and Philip Pier. Two children.

John Kessler husband of Gertrude Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹. Private in Battalion of Minute Men, Tryon County Militia, commanded by Colonel Campbell. Married May 10, 1763. Five children; probably two sons in the Revolution.

Henry Nellis, husband of Christina Helmer⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹. There were several men by the name of Henry Nellis in the Revolution. Christina Helmer was born February 10, 1749, died June 14, 1827. Henry Nellis was born October 3, 1746, died April 22, 1829. Can any one give the Revolutionary record of this Henry Nellis or add any further information?

John Ernest Pier⁴, son of Anna-

Magdalena³, Lendert², Philip¹ and her husband Philip Pier. Private in First Regiment, New York Line commanded by Colonel Van Schaick. Born November 3, 1743. Married—. His family consisted of three persons on March 27, 1780; names unknown.

Frederick Riegel husband of Catharine Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹. Private in Tryon County Militia, Fourth Regiment, commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. He was a prisoner of war, taken captive October 31, 1780; released November 22, 1782. Married December 26, 1759. Five children.

Jacob G. Weber husband of Anna Margaret Helmer⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹. Private in Tryon County Militia, Fourth Regiment, commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. He was born September, 1751, died November 28, 1820. Married Anna Margaret Helmer born October 28, 1763, died November 30, 1831. Two daughters.

The Tory Helmers

Many settlers of the Mohawk Valley remained loyal to the British cause at the outbreak of the Revolution. They were reluctant to take up the cause of a new and untried revolutionary movement. Many of these joined the British army and waged war on their former friends and kinsmen.

In the Helmer family there were five men who were Loyalists, but there is so little information to be had about them that it is difficult to place their relationship with other members of the family.

Adam Helmer, a resident of German Flatts, owned a farm which he rented to one Johnn Kasselmann. This farm was declared forfeited June 7, 1777, to the United States for the reason that Helmer had gone to the enemy. There were three men of very similar names, two living in the vicinity of German Flatts, Adam Helmer the Tory, and Johann Adam F. Helmer the Revolutionary scout. The third Han Adam Helmer lived in the

vicinity of Stone Arabia and was killed at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777. The papers accompanying the pension application of the widow of Johann Adam F. Helmer, the scout states that the Tory Adam Helmer went to Canada with Johnson.

Hans Helmer. Judge William Harper, in a letter written at "Mohack District," Tryon County, 12 April, 1779, to Governor Clinton, mentions a Hans Helmer "a Tory who was taken the previous day by Solleman Wodward, a true Whig in Johnston's bush; he went to the enemy in 1777 and is now a soldier in Sir Johnston's regiment and is home on his parole."

Philip Helmer⁴, Leonard, Jr.³, Leonard², Philip¹. Son of Leonard Helmer, Jr. and Catherine Nellis. Probably born about 1750 or before. Married a Miss Bellinger, daughter of Johannes Bellinger, about the close of the Revolution. They were the parents of five daughters. He went as a member of the Jacob I. Klock Tory party to Canada. He should not be confused with Philip Helmer Patriot, born June 11, 1757 who married Margaret Bellinger, daughter of Johannes Bellinger and whose pension record covers almost continuous service from January 15, 1777, to December 31, 1780. When two men by the name of Philip Helmer marry two daughters by the name of Bellinger, both daughters of Johannes, it is confusing. Possibly these were not sisters as there were several men by the name of Johannes Bellinger.

John Helmer⁴, Leonard, Jr.³, Leonard², Philip¹. He was born May 17, 1751. This John Helmer was the younger brother of Philip Helmer, the Tory mentioned above. While there is no record of his participating in the activities of the Jacob I. Klock Tory party, he was a Loyalist.

Leonard Helmer. Also a Loyalist and went to Canada soon after the beginning of the Revolution.

After the close of the Revolution some of these Helmers returned to the Mohawk Valley and located near

the East Canada Creek between Little Falls and St. Johnsville.

CHAPTER V.

Godfrid Helmer

Godfrid Helmer³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born at Schoharie, N. Y., either December 17 or 27, 1715. The record from the old family Bible written in German gives his birth as December 17, 1715. The Kocherthal Church record gives the following record at Schoharie: "Johann Gottfrid, born Dec. 27, 1715, child of Leonhard and Elizabeth Helmer; sponsors Gottfrid Ruhl and wife. Baptized January 24, 1716." This is a discrepancy of ten days in the two records, which may be either as a result of the records not being legible or a mistake in transcribing.

Godfrid Helmer was the eldest son of Lendert Helmer, whose will, dated June 27, 1781, mentions certain bequests to the children of his eldest son Godfrid.

Godfrid Helmer probably moved with his parents to the Burnettsfield Patent about 1723. Thirty or more families from Schoharie settled on the land in Burnettsfield in 1723, and were given land certificates. The Burnettsfield Patent was issued April 30, 1725, his parents both being patentees.

On July 14, 1751, he with his father and brother Johann Leonhardt (Leonard, Jr.,) were signers of a "Statement of the Churches of the River and Stone Arabia," which record is found in the Reformed Dutch Church at Fort Plain, formerly known as the Reformed Calvinist Church of Canajohary. This would indicate that he had moved to the vicinity of Fort Plain or Canajoharie, about twenty-five or thirty miles down the Mohawk Valley from Burnettsfield.

His will was dated March 14, 1765, at which time he was living in the vicinity of Canajoharie, now Montgomery County. Letters of administration were granted March 25, 1784, to his son John Helmer of Canajo-

hary District. There appears no record of the date of his death. His will mentions his wife Anna Margeretha and nine children, five sons and four daughters.

In his will Godfrid leaves to his eldest son Leonhardt all the right to his estate and his saw mill till the "four sons of my deceased wife" shall become of age and become equal partners of it.

The question arises whether he may have had other children not mentioned in his will. If there were no other children than those mentioned in the will, then four of these sons were by the first marriage. The four daughters were older than three of the sons and were therefore also by the first marriage. This would leave only one son, Henry the youngest, born Aug. 20, 1764, by the second marriage. The church record of Henry's birth states that his mother was Anna Margeretha, the second wife of Godfrid Helmer.

Godfrid states in his will that his daughter Margaretha was to have the choice of living with any one of his sons during her life. This would indicate that she might have been an invalid.

It is not believed that Godfrid, Sr., was a soldier in the Revolution. But he had a son Godfrid, Jr. who was probably a private in a company of Rangers (scouts) in the Revolution. The scouts were usually much younger men and it was probably his son of the same name who had service.

Godfrid Helmer married (1st) April 6, 1737, Magdalena or Laura Ehle, and (2nd) Anna Margaretha—. No date available of his second marriage.

If we assume that the four sons mentioned in his will are the four sons by his first wife, then the children would probably be as given in the list below. But it must be emphasized that this arrangement is open to serious question.

Children probably by first marriage:

1. Leonhardt. No further definite record. Mentioned in his father's

will. Has anyone any suggestion as to whom he married, etc.? There were two others by the name of Leonard, whose records are unidentified and will be given later. One of these may be this son.

2. Elizabeth. Mentioned in her father's will. No further information.

3. Margaretha. Also mentioned in her father's will. She was probably an invalid as would be judged from the statement in her father's will to the effect that she should have the privilege of living with any of his sons during her life.

4. Christina, born February 10, 1749 died June 14, 1827, married Henry Nellis, born October 3, 1746, died April 22, 1829. No record as to when they married. She was probably his second wife. Did they have any children? Henry Nellis had one son Geo. H. born June 27, 1767, probably by his first marriage. There were several men by the name of Henry Nellis in the Revolution. Does any one know if this Henry Nellis was one of them?

5 Catharine, married first September 7, 1767, Captain Peter Bowman (Baumann,) killed August 6, 1777 at the Battle of Oriskany. The marriage record and pension record give the name of her first husband as Peter not Adam as some people have written. No record of children by her first marriage. Catharine Helmer married second Adolph Walradt. Four children by her second marriage. Query, Was Adolph Walradt's first wife Anna Zimmerman? Both Captain Peter Bowman and Adolph Walradt were in the Revolution.

6. Johannes (John) born January 15, 1758, died August 5, 1837, married Magdalena (Margaret) Ehle, born 1760. He was a soldier in the Revolution. In his pension application his name was given as John G. Helmer to distinguish him from several others of the same name. He was one of three men named John Helmer in the same regiment and his service will be given later. Sponsors at his baptism March 5, 1758, were John

Helmer and Margaret Helse (Hilts). John G. Helmer and Magdalena Ehle were the parents of six children.

7. Godfrid, born January 31, 1760, baptized February 10, 1760. Sponsors Godfrid Humacher (Schumacher?) and his loved fiancée. No further record is found of Godfrid, Jr. He was probably a private in Captain John Winn's Company of Rangers (scouts) in the Tryon County Militia. Was he the brother killed August 6, 1777 at the Battle of Oriskany mentioned in the pension application of his brother John G. Helmer?

8. Joseph (Hanjost or Joost), born February 8, 1762, baptized February 28, 1762. Sponsors Jost Klos and Elizabeth, his wife. Joseph married September 16, 1786-8, Susanna Flint, daughter of Alexander (Sander) Flint. Joseph Helmer served in the First Regiment, Tryon County Militia, commanded by Colonel Samuel Campbell. He was at the Battle of Johnstown. Eight children.

Child of Godfrid Helmer and his second wife Anna Margeretha:

9. Henry, born August 20, 1764, baptized September 2, 1764. Sponsors Henry Nellis and his wife. Henry Helmer married November 4, 1792, Catherine McCaffrey, born 1770, died 1837. Six children.

Godfrid Helmer's Will

In the name of God, Amen, the fourteenth day of March, 1765, I, Godfrey Helmer of Canajohary, Albany County, N. Y., being very sick and weak in body, I leave to my beloved wife Anna Margeretha 50 acres of land in the New Patent, No. 118 granted to George Klock "in company for her" while my widow; also the remainder of the estate I now live upon as long as she will stay by all my children as my widow.

Unto my beloved son Leonhart all the right of said estate and my saw mill to be commander of it till my four sons of my deceased wife, being of age, to become equal partners of it.

Unto my son Johannes 120 acres of New Patent No. 7.

Unto my son Godfrey 100 acres of New Patent No. 53. Unto my son Joost 100 acres of New Patent No. 101. Unto my son Henry 100 acres of New Patent No. 154.

Lots Nos. 7 and 53 must deliver timber for the saw mill and timber fencing and fire wood for the said farm.

Unto my four daughters namely Elizabeth, Margaretha, Christina and Catharina 5 pounds each to be paid by my sons equally when demanded by my daughters.

My daughter Margaretha to have the choice of living with any one of my sons during her life.

The loose estate to be undivided until my children are of age or one of my daughters shall marry, to take two cows if there is a stock of creatures not to be "hurt" to the family.

I make Daniel Miller and Jacob Kraus both of Canajoharie executors.
GODFREY HELMER.

Note—Letters of administration were granted March 25, 1784, to John Helmer of Canajohary District, Montgomery County, the second son mentioned in this will.

CHAPTER VI

Leonard Helmer, Jr.

Leonard Helmer, Jr.³, Lendert¹, Philip². The first record of Johann Leonhardt, known as Leonard, Jr. is when he acted as sponsor November 3, 1743, at the baptism of John Ernest Pier, a nephew. In all probability he was unmarried at that time.

The next two records are found in the year 1751. On July 14, 1751, he was one of the signers of a "Statement of the Churches of the River and Stone Arabia," mentioned in Chapter 1 of the Helmer Family Series. On May 17, 1751 a record is found in the Stone Arabia Reformed Church of a son born. This would indicate he was living in the vicinity of Fort Plain, Canajoharie or Stone Arabia at that time.

There is very little data to be had about his family. Only fragments of records are found, which taken together, still leave an incomplete and unsatisfactory history.

Leonard Helmer, Jr. should not be confused with another Leonard Helmer, a cousin of about the same age, who married Catherine Zimmerman.

Leonard Helmer, Jr. was probably born about 1720 to 1725. He probably married about 1745 to 1750. There were few church records covering these years, and it is hoped old family Bibles will furnish more complete data.

Leonard Helmer, Jr. married Catherine Nellis, born Jan. 18, 1724, died Aug. 20, 1805, aged 81 years, 7 mos., 2 days (tombstone record). She was the daughter of Christian Nellis and Barvalis (Barbara) Klock and grand daughter of Hendrick Klock pioneer. Catherine Nellis married for her second husband Col. Jacob Klock. No children by her second marriage.

Leonard Helmer, Jr., and Catherine Nellis were the parents of two children, perhaps more:

- 1 Philip born before or about 1750.
- 2 John born May 17, 1751. Sponsors John Helmer and Catherine Zimmerman.

Philip Helmer

Philip Helmer⁴, Leonard, Jr.³, Lendert², Philip¹. He was born before or about 1750. No definite record of his birth.

At the outbreak of the Revolution Philip Helmer was a Loyalist. He was a member of the Jacob I. Klock Tory party mentioned in the Col Jacob Klock, Patriot, articles which appeared in the Enterprise and News two years ago.

In one of the Tory raids Philip Helmer discovered that some of his friends were to be attacked. Under the pretense of doing an errand he left the Tory camp and gave the alarm, saving his friends. From that time he deserted the Tory cause. About the close of the Revolution he

married a Miss Bellinger, daughter of Johannes Bellinger.

This Philip Helmer should not be confused with another Philip Helmer who married Margaret Bellinger (daughter of Johannes Bellinger) and who was a Patriot and had almost continuous service in the Revolution from January 15, 1777 to December 31, 1780, for which he received a pension.

Philip Helmer, Tory and his wife ——— Bellinger were the parents of five daughters:

1 Maria who married Simon Scouten.

2 Catherine who married Christian Shepperman.

3 Anne who married James Gremps

4 Magdalena (Lana) who married George Lambert.

5 Delia who married John C. Ehl.

Philip Helmer's widow ——— Bellinger married (2nd) Leonard Helmer of Kringsbush.

Maria Helmer

Maria (Mary) Helmer⁵, Philip⁴, Leonard, Jr.³, Lendert², Philip¹. Married Simon Scouten. She died at the birth of her third child February 23, 1802. They were the parents of three children:

1 Anna born Sept. 29, 1795. Sponsor Peter Fox and Anna his wife.

2 David born Sept. 17, 1797. Sponsors William Simons and Betsy his wife.

3 George born February 23, 1802. Sponsors George Loucks and Elizabeth Loucks.

Anna Magdalena Helmer

Ana Magdalena Helmer³, Lendert², Philip¹ was probably born about 1720. She was mentioned in her father's will which was dated June 27, 1781. The record of her marriage December 15, 1741, to Philip Pier (George Philip Peer) is found in Stone Arabia Lutheran church. This name in later generations was spelled Pierce.

Anna Magdalena Helmer and Geo.

Philip Pier were the parents of two children:

1 Johannes Ernestus, born November 3, 1743. Sponsors Joh. Leonhard (Leonard, Jr.) Helmer and Barbara Elizabeth Dagsteter (Dockstater).

2 Anna Sophia born March 23, 1751. Sponsors Philip Helmer and Anna Margaret Nellis, unmarried.

John Ernest Pier

John Ernest Pier⁴, Anna Magdalena Helmer³, Lendert², Philip¹. He was born November 3, 1743. He was a soldier in the Revolution, a private in the First Regiment, New York Line, commanded by Colonel Van Schaick. He evidently married but the names of his wife and children are unknown.

The Legislature passed a law October 20, 1779, allowing a gratuity of \$30 per head to the families of men serving in the Continental Troops. Peter S. Deygart was appointed commissioner to carry this law into effect in Tryon county.

Christopher P. Yates was supervisor of the Palatine District. Under date of March 27, 1780 he rendered a report to Commissioner Peter S. Deygart of the gratuities allowed to the families of Continental Troops. In his report Mr. Yates stated that the family of John Ernest Pier consisted of three persons, but the names of these three persons were not given.

Anna Sophia Pier

Anna Sophia Pier⁴, Anna Magdalena Helmer³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born March 23, 1751. She married George Haine (Haynes) a private in the Tryon County Militia, Rangers (Scouts), under Captain John Kasselmann.

George Haynes and his wife Anna Sophia Pier were the parents of two children:

1 George, born July 20, 1787; sponsors Barthol Schaeffer and Anna Dorothea, his wife.

2 Johan born November 5, 1789; sponsors Jelles Miller and Elizabeth Eigenbrodt.

No further record of this family.

John Helmer

Johannes (John) Helmer³, Lendert², Philip¹ was probably born about 1730 to 1740. The first church record in which his name appears was when he acted as sponsor at the baptism of a nephew in the year 1751.

He married February 7, 1760, Gertrude Bell, daughter of Johannes Bell. This record is found in both the Reformed and Lutheran Churches of Stone Arabia.

John Helmer and Gertrude Bell were the parents of four children:

1 Dietrich, born Sept. 25, 1763. Sponsor Dieterick Bell. Dietrich Helmer was a private in the First Regiment, New York Line, commanded by Colonel Van Schaick.

2 Elizabeth, born July 25, 1765. Sponsors Elizabeth Hess and Lennert Helmer.

3 Leonhard, born July 15, 1766. Sponsors Leonhard Helmer and Margaret Helmer, the wife of John Hatkok.

4 Hanjost, mentioned in his grandfather's will which was dated June 27, 1781. No record as to his birth, marriage or death.

It is possible that the two sons Leonard and Hanajost may have been soldiers in the Revolution, but there is no proof. However, it is known there were several unidentified men of these names in the Revolution. Until additional data is brought forth, it will be impossible to complete these lines.

Maria Margred Helmer

Maria Margred Helmer³, Lendert², Philip¹ married before July 15, 1766. John Headcock (Hatcock). On this date she acted as sponsor at the baptism of a nephew. Probably married several years prior to this date. No record of children.

Gertroud Helmer

Gertroud Helmer³, Lendert², Philip¹ married about 1750 (possibly earlier) Jacob Krouss, Jr., son of Jacob

Krouss. They were the parents of two children as follows:

1 Maria Elizabeth born November 28, 1751. Sponsors Johannes Merckel, and Maria Elizabeth Helmer.

2 Debora born November 15, 1765. Sponsors Maria Elizabeth and Heinrich Laux.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth (Maria Elizabeth) Helmer³, Lendert², Philip¹ married Peter Eygenbrodt. They were the parents of two children:

1 E ——— (name illegible) born December 6, 1765. Sponsors Anna Fox and Johannes Kraus.

2 Peter born October 23, 1768. Sponsors Peter Warmuth and Sophia Pierce.

CHAPTER VII.**Frederick A. Helmer in the Revolution**

Frederick A. Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹. He was a private in Captain Henry Herder's (Harter) Company, Tryon County Militia, Fourth Regiment, commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. He was in service for short periods in 1779 and 1780.

He was born August 16, 1725, and died March 5, 1804. He married Barbara Elizabeth Homan, who was born in Holland and who came to America in 1754. There is a tradition that when Barbara Elizabeth Homan reached this country she was sold by the Captain of the boat she came in, that he might have pay for her passage. When the time of her servitude expired she married Frederick A. Helmer.

Frederick A. Helmer should not be confused with his cousin Captain Frederick F. Helmer who was killed at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777.

Frederick A. Helmer and Barbara Elizabeth Homan were the parents of four children:

1. Anna Margaret (Margaret) born October 28, 1763. Sponsors Johannes

Kessler and Gertrude Helmer, his wife. Margaret Helmer died November 30, 1831. She married Jacob G. Weber, born September, 1751 died November 28, 1820. One daughter.

2. Conrad, born January 28, 1766. Sponsors Philip Helmer and Margaret—, his wife. Conrad Helmer died October 28, 1841. He married Anna Margaret Folts³, Conrad², Melchoir¹. Anna Margaret Folts was born April 10, 1766 or 1768, died February 10, 1822. Four children.

3. Peter, born May 7, 1768. Sponsor Peter Hohman. No record as to his marriage or death. He had one son Frederick A. born about 1800.

4. Johann Adam (Adam), born July 7, 1770. Sponsors Adam Helmer and Maria Beersch, his wife. He died December 30, 1854. Married March 9, 1794, Anna Margaret Harter, daughter of Captain Henry Harter² and Catharine Piper, his wife. Captain Henry Harter's parents were Lowrens Harter¹ and Apolone—, his wife, Burnettsfield Patentees. Adam Helmer and Anna Margaret Harter, his wife, had eight children.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁴ Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born October 28, 1763, died November 30, 1831. She was the second wife of Jacob G. Weber, born September, 1751, died November 28, 1820. Jacob G. Weber was an elder in the Reformed Protestant Church at Herkimer. They had one daughter:

1. Anna Margaret, born October 7, 1801. Sponsors Adam Helmer and Anna Margaret Harter, his wife, of Warren.

Conrad Helmer

Conrad Helmer⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born Jan. 28, 1766, died October 28, 1841. He married Anna Margaret Folts³, Conrad², Melchoir¹. She was born April 10, 1766 or 1768, died February 10, 1822. They had four children as follows:

1. Peter C. born September 9, 1789. Sponsors Jacob Con: Folts (Volz) and Anna Margaret Helmer. He married April 11, 1812-3, Anna Rasbach⁴, Jno.³, Marx², Johannes¹. Anna Rasbach was born April 22, 1797. Five children.

2. Conrad, born April 16, 1792. Sponsors Joh. Adam Helmer and Catharine Christman. He married September 10, 1815, Catharine Schell, daughter of Peter Schell and Catharine Hiltz, his wife. Three children.

3. Barbara Elizabeth (Elizabeth) born (?) Married January 1, 1815, Marcus Rasbach⁴, John³, Marx², Johannes¹. Marcus Rasbach was born March 8, 1792, died February 21, 1855. Six children.

4. Catharine, born March 24, 1801. Sponsors George Folts and Christina— his wife. She was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed church September 17, 1815 at the age of 14 years. No further record.

Peter Helmer

Peter Helmer⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam² Philip¹ was born May 7, 1768. No record as to his marriage or death. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. He had one son:

1. Frederick A. born about 1800 who was married three times, but the names of his wives are unknown. He had a son Richard born March, 1832, by the first wife who died when Richard was about six months old. Richard Helmer married and had one daughter Julia A.

Adam Helmer

Adam⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born July 7, 1770, died December 30, 1854. Buried in the Helmer cemetery north of Jordanville, Herkimer county, N. Y. He married March 9, 1794 Anna Margaret Harter³, Captain Henry Harter², Lowrens¹. Anna Margaret Harter was born January 28, 1773, died December 23, 1859. They were the parents of eight children.

1. Hannah (Anna) born September 5, 1795. Sponsors Lorentz Harter and

Anna Eva —. Hannah Helmer married May 21, 1820, Han Thomas Helmer, son of Adam Helmer and Eva Schumacher, his wife. No further record.

2. Henry A., born September 7, 1797, died September 2, 1868. Buried in the Helmer cemetery, Jordanville, N. Y. He married January 24, 1822, Veronica (Fanny) Rasbach⁴, John³, Marx², Johannes¹. Veronica Rasbach was born February 19, 1800, died November 2, 1872. Eight children.

3. Barbara E. born December 20, 1799 died April 1, 1825. Not married? Buried in the Helmer cemetery, Jordanville, N. Y.

4. Laurence, born July 13, 1802. Sponsors Conrad Helmer and Margaret Folts his wife. Laurence Helmer married Sophia Jennings. Six children.

5. Catharine, born August 23, 1804. Sponsors Philip Harter and Catharine —, his wife. Catharine Helmer died December 23, 1868. Never married. Buried in the Helmer cemetery, Jordanville, N. Y.

6. Margaret A. born April 27, 1807. Sponsors Jacob G. Weber and Anna Margaret Helmer, his wife. Died about 1889. Married about 1829 Eliza Getman. No children. One record says that Eliza Getman was the daughter of Frederick Getman and Katharine Brodhack, his wife. Another record gives her parents as Colonel Frederick Getman and his wife Mary Strayer. Which is correct?

7. Peter H. born April 15, 1810. Sponsors Peter C. Helmer and Margaret Bellinger, unmarried. No further record.

8. Anna Margaret (Margaret) born March 12, 1812. Sponsors Henry L. Herder (Harter) and Catharine Starling, unmarried. Margaret Helmer died March 8, 1861. Never married. Buried in the Helmer cemetery, Jordanville, N. Y.

Peter C. Helmer

Peter C. Helmer⁵, Conrad⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, was born Sep-

tember 9, 1789. He was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church September 18, 1805. He married April 11, 1812-3, Anna Rasbach⁴ John³, Marx², Johannes¹. Anna Rasbach was born April 22, 1797.

Peter C. Helmer and Anna Rasbach, his wife, had five children:

1. Mary, born September 12, 1813. Sponsors Conrad Helmer and Veronica (Fanny) Rasbach, unmarried. Mary Helmer married May 31, 1829, Peter P. Smith, born 1805 son of Peter Smith and Dorothy Steel, his wife. Mary Helmer and Peter P. Smith, her husband, had four children.

2. Frederick, born June 29, 1815. Sponsors Marx Rasbach, Jr., and Elizabeth Devendorf, his wife. Frederick Helmer never married.

3. Peter P., born May 2, 1821. Sponsors Conrad Folts and Catharine Helmer, unmarried. He married December 17, 1840, Mary Ann Smith, daughter of Jacob Smith, Jr., and Mary Livingston, his wife. Peter P. Helmer and Mary Ann Smith, his wife, had two children and lived at Moravia, N. Y.

4. William, born December 4, 1823. Sponsors Jacob Fulmer and Mary Catharine Rasbach, his wife. William Helmer died November 2, 1895, married December 4, 1844, Mary Jane Jeffers and lived at Herkimer. Six children.

5. Anna Margaret, born May 15, 1829. Sponsors Solomon Nellis and Sophia Rasbach, his wife. Anna Margaret Helmer died May 2, 1843, aged 14 years less 13 days.

Conrad Helmer, Jr.

Conrad Helmer, Jr.⁵, Conrad⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, was born April 16, 1792. Confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church July 11, 1808 at the age of 16 years. Married September 10, 1815, Catharine Schell, daughter of Peter Schell and Catherine Hiltz, his wife,

Conrad Helmer, Jr. and Catharine Schell, his wife, had three children:

1. Jacob, born April 19, 1816. Spon-

sors Peter C. Helmer and Anna Rasbach, his wife. No further record.

2. Isaac, born April 9, 1826. Sponsors Frederick Helmer and Maria Elizabeth Schell. No further record.

3. Anna Margaret, born October 7, 1822. Sponsors Catharine Harter and Conrad Harter. No further record.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth Helmer³, Conrad⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, born ?, married January 1, 1815 Marcus Rasbach⁴, John³, Marx², Johannes¹. Marcus Rasbach was born March 8, 1792, died, February 21, 1855.

Elizabeth Helmer and Marcus Rasbach were the parents of six children:

1. Peter, born? Died July 16, 1816.
2. John I. born March 19, 1818. Sponsors Jacob Fulmer and Maria Catharine Rasbach, his wife. John I. Rasbach died April 16, 1905, married (1st) Malinda Smith and (2nd) Alzina Cristman. Nine children by the first marriage and four by the second marriage.
3. William C. born September 27, 1822. Married (1st) October 10, 1844, Mary Elizabeth Harter, born December 27, 1825, daughter of Henry G. Harter and Dorothy Hilts, his wife. Married (2nd) Mary Catharine Eysman, born January 13, 1839. No children by either marriage.
4. Anna Margaret born February 6, 1826. Sponsors Joseph Harter and Sophia Rasbach. Anna Margaret Rasbach died when about two years old.
5. George Henry, born April 14, 1828. Sponsors Conrad Helmer, Jr., and Catharine Schell, his wife. Geo. Henry Rasbach died young. Buried at Oak Hill cemetery.
6. Marcus, born February 24, 1832. Sponsors Peter Smith, Jr., and Maria Helmer, his wife. Married Nancy Maria Schell. Three children.

Henry A. Helmer

Henry A. Helmer⁵, Adam⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born September 7, 1797, died September 2, 1868. He is buried in the Helmer cemetery,

north of Jordanville, Herkimer county, N. Y. He married January 24, 1822, Veronica (Fanny) Rasbach⁴, John³, Marx², Johannes¹. Veronica Rasbach was born February 19, 1800, died November 2, 1872.

Henry A. Helmer and Veronica Rasbach, his wife, had eight children: died November 20, 1867, buried in the Helmer cemetery, Jordanville, N. Y. Adam H. Helmer married (2nd) Susan Garlock.

1. Adam H. born July 12, 1823. Sponsors Barbara Elizabeth Helmer and Henry H. Helmer. He married (1st) Marinda Starkweather, born 1832,

2. Henry J. born July 9, 1838. Sponsors parents. He married September 29, 1868, Lucy Ames, daughter of Otis Ames and Mary Palmer, his wife. Two children, Frederick A. and Ross D.

3. John R. lived at Clinton, Wisconsin. Married (1st) Helen Osborn and (2nd) Clara Morey (Edwards). Three children, names not known.

4. Anna Margaret. Married Aguer Williams. Eight children: Fannie, Jennie, Charles, Fred, Frank A., Harry, May and another daughter.

5. Harriet. Married Dr. Monroe B. Robbins. Two children, both died young.

6. Elizabeth. Never married.

7. Mary Catharine. She was the second wife of Rev. George W. Becker. No children.

8. James. Died young, aged about six years.

Laurence Helmer

Laurence Helmer⁵, Adam⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born July 13, 1802. Married Sophia Jennings. They were the parents of six children:

1. Frederick, died young. Buried in the Helmer cemetery, Jordanville, N. Y.

2. Margaret born? died February, 1834. Buried in the Helmer cemetery Jordanville, N. Y.

3. Sara Louise, who married Adam B. Dockstader. One daughter, Addie

who married North J. Newth and now lives at Ilion, N. Y.

4. Amenilla (Armanella) born February 18, 1832. Sponsors parents. Married Adolphus—.

5. Cora who married Charles Englehart.

6. Frank who married Libbie Casler

Mary Helmer

Mary Helmer⁶, Peter C.⁵, Conrad⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born September 12, 1813. Confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church at the age of 16 years October 17, 1829. She married May 31, 1829 Peter P. Smith born 1806, son of Peter Smith and Dorothy Steel, his wife.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Mary Elizabeth, born February 28, 1832. Sponsors Frederick Helmer and Elizabeth Smith, unmarried

2. John Peter, born February 18, 1835. Sponsors John Rasbach and Anna Margaret Smith.

3. William Urias, born May 3, 1837. Sponsors parents.

4. Anna Margaret, born March 12, 1843. Sponsors parents.

No further record of any of these children.

Peter P. Helmer

Peter P. Helmer⁶, Peter C.⁵, Conrad C.⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, was born May 2, 1821 at Herkimer. Lived at Moravia, N. Y. Married December 17, 1840, Mary Ann Smith, daughter of Jacob Smith, Jr., and Mary Livingstone.

They were the parents of two children:

1. William F. born about 1844 a short distance east of the village of Herkimer. Lived at Moravia, N. Y. in 1907. A civil engineer by profession.

2. Smith.

William Helmer

William Helmer⁶, Peter C.⁵, Conrad⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹,

was born December 4, 1823, died November 2, 1895. Lived at Herkimer, N. Y. Married December 4, 1844 Mary Jane Jeffers.

They were the parents of six children:

1. Charles R. who lived in New York city in 1907.

2. William D.

3. Berton K.

4. Florence S.

5. Mary A.

6. Ada born February 15, 1871 who married October 8, 1895 Clarence B. Root. Lives at Herkimer.

John I. Rasbach

John I. Rasbach⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, Conrad⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born March 19, 1818, died April 16, 1905. Married November 6, 1839 (1st) Malinda Smith, daughter of Adam Smith, Jr., and Elizabeth Hiltz, his wife. Married (2nd) Alzina Cristman, daughter of Lewis Cristman and Lydia Kast, his wife. Alzina Cristman was born September 18, 1835, died January, 1916. Thirteen children, nine by the first marriage and four by the second marriage.

Children by the first marriage:

1. Elizabeth born January, 1846. Married Almeron Joshua Rasbach and had four children: John, Minnie, Etta and Leona. Lived at Herman, St. Lawrence county, N. Y.

2. Margaret who married Norton L. Cristman and had two children: Malinda and Bertha May.

3. Norman, born January 19, 1850. Never married.

4. John Alonzo born May 16, 1851. Married Amelia Cristman, born Mar. 9, 1854. They were the parents of twelve children: Webster, Edgar, Mabel, Edith, Louis J., Essie May, Raymond, Norton J., Bernard A., Earl B., Leon and Franklin.

5. Chlorinda born 1852 who married Jay Bacon. Lived at Lincoln Neb.

6. Ellen born 1854. Married (1st) Rosell Buck and (2nd) Charles Carleston. Lived at Lyons, Neb.

7. Harriet, born 1856. Married (1st)

John Petrie and (2nd) Samuel Welsh. Children by the first marriage: Willis J. and Nettie. No children by the second marriage.

8. Marcus, born August 30, 1858. Never married.

9. Adam, born November 27, 1860. Married — Chatman. One child, Winnie. Lived in Iowa.

Children by the second marriage:

10. Bert J., born November 28, 1869. Married Harriet M. Mellon, born December 3, 1871. Two children Hazel A. and B. Floyd.

11. Nettie Grace, married 1904 John David Mahardy.

12. Nellis Rasbach, married Fred A. Fuller.

13. Eva, married Raymond S. Warner.

Marcus Rasbach

Marcus Rasbach⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, Conrad⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born February 24, 1832. Married Nancy Maria Schell. Three children.

1. Mamie born August 27, 1873. Married November 18, 1896, Bert Crill born April 13, 1872. Three children, Hazel L., Ruth Leta and Edna.

2. Irving P. who married (1st) Mary K. Myers and (2nd) Grace Smith. Two children by first marriage, Raymond and Nellie. One child by second marriage, Vera.

3. William F. who married Bertha Lasher. No children.

This completes the family of Frederick A. Helmer.

CHAPTER VIII

Catharine Helmer

Catharine Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹, married December 26, 1759 Frederick Riegel, the son of Gottfreid Riegel, deceased of Little Falls.

Frederick Riegel was a private in the Tryon County Militia, Fourth Regiment, and was a prisoner of the Revolutionary War, taken captive October 31, 1780 released November 22, 1782.

Catharine Helmer and her husband Frederick Riegel were the parents of five children:

1. Anna Margaret born October 16, 1760. Sponsors Anna Margaret Helmer, Adam Helmer's unmarried daughter and Timothy Frank, Conrad Frank's unmarried son.

2. Christian, born January 27, 1763. Sponsors Christian Riegel and

3. Godfrid, born November 26, 1764. Sponsors Johannes Helmer and Margaret Bellinger.

4. Catharine, born February 7, 1767. Sponsors Maria Hielts (Hilts) and Henrich Helmer.

5. Frederick born June 15, 1769. Sponsors Frederick Helmer and Maria Philippina Ecker, his wife.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹, married September 30, 1760, Icabod Baani (Bany), son of Joseph Baani of New Jersey.

Icabod Bany was a private in the Tryon County Militia, Fourth Regiment.

Elizabeth Helmer and her husband Icabod Bany were the parents of four children:

1. Maria Elizabeth born January 14, 1762. Sponsors Maria Elizabeth Helmer and Johann Jost Folts, both unmarried.

2. Maria Margaret, born August 12, 1764. Sponsors Maria Margaret Helmer and John Helmer.

3. Johannes, born July 9, 1766. Sponsors John Kessler and Gertrude Helmer, his wife.

4. Anna, born October 10, 1770. Sponsors Anna Franck and Henry Helmer.

Han Adam Helmer

Han Adam Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹, married January 6, 1763 Maria Beersch (Barse or Burch). He was killed at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Johannes born November 19, 1763.

Sponsors Johanes Helmer and Elizabeth Rittman .

2. Adam, born August 21, 1765. Sponsors Henry Helmer and Elizabeth Folts.

3. Anna Margaret born January 9, 1768. Sponsors Margaret Campbell and Ludwig Beersch. Anna Margaret Helmer never married and died October 19, 1845.

4. Maria, born March 3, 1770. Sponsors Philip Helmer and Maria Philippina Ecker, his wife.

Margaret Helmer ----

Margaret Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹, married March 15, 1763, Christian Riegel, son of Gottfried Riegel.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Frederick, born January 1, 1764. Sponsors Frederick Riegel and Catharine Helmer, his wife.

2. Maria Elizabeth, born November 13, 1766. Sponsors Maria Helmer and Gottfried Hiltz.

3. Gottfried, born August 1, 1768. Sponsors Gottfried Hiltz and Catharine Foltz. Gottfried Riegel married November 24, 1789 Gertrude Fulmer, daughter of Thomas Fulmer.

Philip Helmer

Philip Helmer³ probably the son of Adam², Philip¹ was twice married. This is another line difficult to trace, for the reason there were several of the same name of this generation. There is confusion as to the births of their children. There were two men by the name of John P., either of whom may have been his son. One was John P. who married Maria Wolff and the other was John Ph. who married Anna Dusler. However, it is believed the first mentioned was his son. Can anyone furnish more information?

By the first marriage (wife's name unknown) he probably had two sons:

1. John P., born July 7, 1757 at Herkimer of German Flatts. Died January 20, 1833 in the Town of Manlius, Onondaga County, N. Y. He mar-

ried January 15, 1786, Maria Wolff, daughter of Michael Wolff. They were the parents of twelve children. The family and pension records of John P. Helmer will be given in a later article.

2. Philip whose record is difficult to trace.

Philip Helmer³ married (2nd) May 4, 1762 Maria Philippina Ecker.

Query—Was the following one of Philip's sons?

Philip P. Helmer born June 11, 1757, married May 9, 1783 Margaret Bellinger, born 1750. A private in the First Regiment, New York line. His family and pension record will be given in a later article.

Gertrude Helmer

Gertrude Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹, married May 10, 1763 John Kessler (Casler). John Kessler was a private in a Battalion of Minute Men, Tryon County Militia, commanded by Colonel Samuel Campbell. It is very probably that his two eldest sons were also soldiers in the Revolution.

Gertrude Helmer and her husband John Kessler (Casler) were the parents of five children:

1. Johann Nicolaus (Nicholas) born March 5, 1764. Sponsors Johann Nicolaus Kessler and Elizabeth Helmer. Died about 1827. He married Sept. 14, 1782 Gertrude Bellinger, born July 18, 1764.

2. Johann Adam (Adam) born October 7, 1765. Sponsors Adam Helmer and Maria Beersch, his wife.

3. Johannes (John) born January 14, 1768. Sponsors Conrad Foltz and Elizabeth Kessler.

4. Catharine born February 15, 1770. Sponsors Henrich Helmer and Catharine Schumacher.

5. Anna born May 16, 1779. Sponsors Joh: Friedr: Helmer and Maria Elizabeth

Johann Nicolas Kessler

Johann Nicolas (Nicholas) Kessler (Casler)⁴, Gertrude Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹ was born March 5, 1764. Died

1827. Married Sept. 14, 1782 Gertrude Bellinger, born July 18, 1764, died April 5, 1831. Gertrude Bellinger was the daughter of Colonel Peter P. Bellinger and his wife Delia Herkimer and granddaughter of Captain Peter Bellinger and his wife Anna Margaret Horning, Burnettsfield Patentees.

Johann Nicolas Kessler and Gertrude Bellinger were the parents of eleven children:

1. John P. who married (1st) Betsy Steele and (2nd) Caroline Zoller. One son by the first marriage, Robert, who lived at Whitesboro, N. Y.

2. Christopher B. who married Esther Prall.

3. Nicholas who married (1st) Polly Starring and (2nd) Polly Miller. Two children by the first marriage: Alfred who lived at Little Falls, N. Y. and Peter who lived at Jacksonburgh. One son by the second marriage, Myron who died at Montreal; he was a Brigadier General. After his death his family was living there.

4. Robert, who married Tina Zoller.

5. Richard N. who married Jane Young.

6. Peter B. who married Elizabeth Catharine Eysaman.

7. Esther born about 1819. Never married. Was living in 1906 at the age of 87 years.

8. Mary who married Henry Heath.

9. Catharine who married Henry F. Cronkheit. One son, Tunis.

10. Delia who married (1st) Jacob I. Harder and (2nd) Alanson Loomis. One daughter by the first marriage, Gertrude who married Thomas Spontenburg.

11. Magdalena who married (1st) Jacob Vrooman and (2nd) Joseph Heath. Two sons by the first marriage, Nicholas and Henry M.

John Helmer

John Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹ married August 11, 1767 Margaret Mayer (Myers). He may have been one of the unidentified John Helmers who were in the Revolutionary war. Nearly all of his brothers and brothers in

law were in the Revolution. He was one of the sons of Adam² who moved towards the Stone Arabia section.

John Helmer and his wife Margaret Mayer had the following children:

1. Henry born April 13, 1768. Sponsors Henry Helmer and Maria Mayer.

2. Johann Adam (Adam) born February 8, 1770. Sponsors Frederick Mayer and Catharine Gettman.

Henry A. Helmer

Henry A. Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹ was born about 1747. He died at Herkimer, N. Y. May 15, 1815. He married Maria Elizabeth, born about 1752, died April 14, 1819 at Herkimer. They were the parents of seven children. Henry A. Helmer was a sergeant in the Second Regiment, Tryon County Militia. His record will be given in a later article.

CHAPTER IX.

Sergeant Henry A. Helmer in the Revolution

Henry A. Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹, was born about 1747. He died May 15, 1815, at Herkimer, N. Y. at the age of 68 years. He married Maria Elizabeth, born about 1752, died at Herkimer, N. Y. April 14, 1819, at the age of 67 years.

Henry A. Helmer was listed as a Sergeant on August 6, and December 4, 1779, in Captain John Hess's Company, Second Regiment, Tryon County Militia, commanded by Col. Jacob Klock. At a later date he was a Sergeant in Captain Peter Wagner's Company of the same Regiment. The date of his service in Captain Peter Wagner's Company cannot be determined for the reason that a portion of the Revolutionary war roll covering this service had been burned and the date destroyed.

Another record gives the following:

On a "Return of Flour" impressed by Lieut. William Colbrate of the 2d New York Regt. pursuant to a warrant granted from His Excellency Governor Clinton dated the 6 May

1781 and which the under mentioned persons have received no certificate, no pay for the same and for which I am accountable a copy of Sd Return warrt to Brig. Genl. Clinton and money & pay State Agent for which the State has not made payment" appears No. 4, Henry Helmer—amount £15 2s 9d. Audited 17 November, 1784.

Henry A. Helmer and his wife Maria Elizabeth were the parents of seven children (probably more):

1. Jacob born about 1768.
2. Elizabeth born May 3, 1777. Sponsors Joh. Nicol Hiels and Elizabeth Fox, his wife.
3. Margaret, born Sept. 18, 1778.
4. Henry, born December 8, 1784. Sponsors Adam Harter and Anna Margaret Helmer.
5. Maria Elizabeth, born November 13, 1786. Sponsors Jacob Bell and Elizabeth.....
6. Johannes (John) born September 28, 1788. Sponsors George Helmer and Anna Eva Folts.
7. Lenhart, born September 16, 1791. Sponsors Adam Helmer and Catharine Riegel.

Jacob Helmer

Jacob Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born about 1768. Died January 12, 1856, aged 88 years. He was probably married twice, but no record of his first marriage is found. It is believed he was the Jacob Helmer who lived at Otego, N. Y., about 1790 to 1800.

Jacob Helmer and his 1st wife (name unknown) probably had several children, among them being:

1. Delia born between 1790 and 1800 who married Adam J. Herder.

Jacob Helmer married (2nd) December 16, 1810, Sally (Sarah) Speeffen, born about 1769, daughter of John Speeffen. She died November 16, 1854, aged 85 years.

Jacob Helmer and his second wife Sally Speeffen are buried in Egypt Cemetery, Town of Boonville, Oneida

county, N. Y. He was a soldier in the war of 1812.

No children by the second marriage.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born September 18, 1778. Died April 18, 1844. Married May 5, 1795 Jacob Smith. They were the parents of ten children:

1. Jacob, Jr.
2. Adam.
3. Benjamin.
4. Henry born January 17, 1803. Sponsors Henry Helmer and Maria Elizabeth..... his wife.
5. Catharine, born May 27, 1811. Sponsors Leonard Helmer and Catharine Herder (Harter) his wife.
6. Joseph, born August 14, 1812. Sponsors John Helmer and Dorothy Falk, his wife.
7. Margaret, born August 21, 1814. Sponsors John (Jacob) Cristman and Margaret, his wife.
8. Ann, born July 30, 1816. Sponsors George Cass (Cast?) and Anna, his wife.
9. Maria, born August 26, 1819. Sponsors Maria Smith, born Petry, wife of John Smith.
10. Lea.

Henry Helmer, Jr.

Henry Helmer, Jr.⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born December 8, 1784. Died before the death of his daughter mentioned below. He married (wife's name not known). They were the parents of one daughter:

1. Delia born 1808 died October 9, 1820, aged 12 years. The record of her death mentions the fact that her father had died previously.

John Helmer

John Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born September 28, 1788. Died November 21, 1845. Married May 8, 1814 Dorothy Falk, born in Germany in 1793. Died June 21, 1867. Both are buried in the Egypt ceme-

tery, Town of Boonville, N. Y. John Helmer was a soldier of the war of 1812. In later generations the name Falk was possibly known as Fox.

John Helmer and Dorothy Falk, his wife, were the parents of ten children:

1. Henry born December 15, 1814. Sponsors Jacob Helmer and Sarah Speeffen, his wife.

2. Johann Adam (Adam) born July 7, 1817. Sponsors Leonard Helmer and Catharine Herder, his wife.

3. Isaac, born July 25, 1819. Sponsors Adam Herder, Jr., and Delia..... his wife.

4. Jacob, born June 15, 1821. Sponsors Jacob Herder and Magdalena..... his wife.

5. Daniel, born March 13, 1823. Sponsors Balthasar Falk and Maria Smith, his wife.

6. Mary Elizabeth, born March 13, 1825, died about 1830. Sponsors Jacob Smith, Jr., and Maria Livingstone his wife.

7. William born October 26, 1829. Sponsors Adam Falk and Elizabeth Spoon (Spohn) his wife.

8. Robert born about 1833. Buried at Westernville, N. Y.

9. Leonard.

10. Benjamin born about 1837.

Leonard Helmer

Leonard Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born September 16, 1791. Married January 17, 1809 Catharine Herder (Harter) daughter of Jacob Herder. Leonard Helmer and his wife Catharine Herder are buried at Evans Mills, Jefferson county, N. Y. They lived at Fairfield, Herkimer County, N. Y., at the time their last child was born.

Leonard Helmer and his wife Catherine Herder were the parents of thirteen children, all born at Herkimer or Fairfield, N. Y.:

1. Jacob, born about 1809 or 1810.

2. Han Adam, born January 14, 1811. Sponsors Jacob Helmer and Sally Speeffen, his wife.

3. Peter, born December 28, 1812.

Sponsors Adam Smith and Maria Herder, unmarried.

4. Elizabeth, born December 2, 1813. Sponsors Nicholas Herder and Apollonia..... his wife.

5. Robert born January 1, 1816. Sponsors Joe Thomas Herder and Elizabeth....., his wife.

6. Catharine born June 7, 1818. Sponsors Jacob J. Cristman and Margaret....., his wife.

7. Magdalena, born May 10, 1820. Sponsors John Helmer and Dorothy Falk, his wife.

8. Henry born September 11, 1823. Sponsors Jacob Smith and Margaret Helmer his wife.

9. Philip, born August 29, 1825. Sponsors Philip J. Herder and Almira....., his wife.

10. Maria, born November 19, 1827. Sponsors John Herder and Catharine Smith.

11. Caty Margaret (Margaret), born March 19, 1830. Sponsors Henry A. Herder and Mary....., his wife.

12. Benjamin born May 7, 1832. Sponsors Melchoir Folts and Elizabeth his wife.

13. Lewisa (Louisa) born September 13, 1834. Sponsors Adam J. Herder and Delia Helmer. his wife.

Delia Helmer

Delia Helmer⁵, Jacob⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ married January 1, 1818, Adam J. Herder (Harter), son of Jacob Herder.

They were the parents of five children:

1. Jacob Jois, born July 22, 1819. Sponsors Jacob Herder and Magdalena....., his wife, uncle and aunt.

2. Mary Ann born January 8, 1822. Sponsors Andrea (Andrew) Herder and Maria Helmer, unmarried.

3. Magdalena, born September 19, 1823. Sponsors Michael Herder and Appollonia....., his wife.

4. Leonard, born September 25, 1825. Sponsors Leonard Helmer and Catharine Harder, his wife.

5. Solomon Jackson, born July 24, 1834. Sponsors Jacob Helmer and Elizabeth....., his wife.

Jacob Smith, Jr.

Jacob Smith, Jr.⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ married November 5, 1820 Maria Livingstone, daughter of Malcomb Livingstone and his wife Rebecca Smith.

No record of children.

Adam Smith

Adam Smith⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹, married July 20, 1823 Elizabeth Hilts, widow of Jacob Piper.

Adam Smith and his wife Elizabeth Hilts were the parents of four children:

1. Norman who married Katherine Harter and had three children: Adam J., Jacob and Frank B.

2. Malinda who married John I. Rasbach and had nine children: Elizabeth, Ellen, Clarinda, Adam, John Alonzo, Marcus, Margaret, Norman and Harriet. (For a continuation of these lines, see Chapter VII—Descendants of Frederick A. Helmer).

3. Lucinda who married Joseph Helmer and had six children: Edward, Adam, Ervin, Norman, Joseph and Mary.

4. Clarinda who died when about 4 years of age.

Benjamin Smith

Benjamin Smith¹, Margaret Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹, married June 19, 1825 Maria Herder, daughter of Philip H. Herder and Catharine Philips, his wife.

No record of children.

Catharine Smith

Catharine Smith⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ born May 27, 1811, married May 31, 1829, Lehman Cristman, son of Jacob J. Cristman and Rebecca Smith, his wife.

No record of children.

Joseph Smith

Joseph Smith⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ born August 14, 1812, married September 19,

1844 Louisa Cristman, daughter of Jacob J. Cristman and Rebecca Smith, his wife. They lived at Fairfield, Herkimer County, N. Y.

No record of children.

Lea Smith

Lea Smith⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ married December 28, 1824, Henry Cristman, son of Nicholas Cristman and Maria....., his wife.

No record of children.

Henry Helmer

Henry Helmer⁵, John⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ born December 15, 1814, married Roselly..... Lived at Boonville, N. Y.

They were the parents of one son:

1. Gardner born June 2, 1849, at Boonville, N. Y.

Adam Helmer

Adam Helmer⁵, John⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ born July 7, 1817, married Catharine——. Lived at Boonville, N. Y.

They were the parents of one son:

1. Robert J., born May 13, 1847 at Boonville, N. Y.

Isaac Helmer

Isaac Helmer⁵, John⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born July 25, 1819, at Herkimer, N. Y. He married Sarah Farley, born in Ireland in 1824. They were married at Boonville and always lived in that vicinity.

They were the parents of eight children.

1. John born about 1843.

2. Leonard born about 1846.

3. Robert born September 30, 1848

4. James born about 1850.

5. Henry C.

6. Jane who married Phillips and lived at Old Forge, N. Y.

7. Andrew born August 1, 1855.

8. Daniel J. born Dec. 25, 1858.

Jacob Helmer

Jacob Helmer⁵, Leonard⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹, born about 1809 or 1810, married April 22, 1832 Elizabeth Folts⁵, born about 1814, whose ancestors were Conrad⁴, Melchert³, Johan

Conrad², Melchert¹. Jacob Helmer lived at Fairfield, N. Y. at the time of his marriage and later moved to Evans Mills, N. Y.

Jacob Helmer and his wife Elizabeth Folts were the parents of seven children of which the names of six are known:

1. Gilbert who lived in the town of Le Ray, Jefferson County, N. Y. in 1890. Married Lenora..... and had two sons, George B. and Bidah.

2. Jacob who married Esther Van Derwalker and lived at Evans Mills, N. Y. in 1890. No children.

3. Minerva who married first David Miller and second William D. Miller. Three children, Merton, Metta and Elton.

4. Conrad.

5. Mazina who married Peter Steinhelber. No children.

6. Mary.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth Helmer⁵, Leonard⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ born December 2, 1813 married November 7, 1830, Francis Fahrbush, son of Alik Fahrbush and Elizabeth Casler, his wife. Witnesses at her marriage were Jacob Helmer and Benjamin Helmer.

No record of children.

Philip Helmer

Philip Helmer⁵, Leonard⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born at Herkimer, N. Y. August 29, 1825. In 1844 he married Betsy C. Hoover, daughter of Peter Hoover and lived in the town of Le Ray, Jefferson County, N. Y.

They were the parents of one son:

1. Albert E. born December 18, 1860. Never married.

Robert J. Helmer

Robert J. Helmer⁶, Adam⁵, John⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹, was born at Boonville, N. Y., May 13, 1847. He married Sophia Jones, born 1855, died 1924, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Jones of Steuben, Oneida County, N. Y. Robert J. Helmer kept a gen-

eral store at Alder Creek, N. Y.

They were the parents of two children:

1. Maude Louise who married Dr. Harvey Judson Vary, a dentist, now living at Rochester, N. Y.

2. George R., now living at Rochester, N. Y.

Henry C. Helmer

Henry C. Helmer⁶, Isaac⁵, John⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹, died 1895. He married Emma Recknall, daughter of Frederick Recknall and his wife Caroline..... Emma Recknall was born January 20, 1862 at White Lake, N. Y. and died December 3, 1925 at Boonville, N. Y.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Carrie who married John Fassler now living at Boonville, N. Y.

2. Grace who married Harry L. Donnelly now living at Old Forge, N. Y.

3. Edgar F. now living at Alder Creek, N. Y.

Andrew Helmer

Andrew Helmer⁶, Isaac⁵, John⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹, born August 1, 1855 at Boonville, N. Y. died October 3, 1905. Married Eliza Richardson.

They were the parents of four daughters:

1. Jennie who married Daniel M. Blue, superintendent of schools, living at Boonville, N. Y.

2. Elsie.

3. Effie.

4. Margaret, assistant cashier of the First National Bank, Old Forge, N. Y.

Daniel J. Helmer

Daniel J. Helmer⁶, Isaac⁵, John⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹ born December 25, 1858 at Boonville, N. Y. died December 2, 1929 at Utica, N. Y. Married Nettie A. Joslin.

They were the parents of five children:

1. Arthur living at Utica.
2. Frederick living at Utica.
3. Merchant living at Utica.
4. Emma who married Ostler, living at Utica.
5. Ella who married Warren, living at Syracuse.

CHAPTER X

Family of Frederick Helmer, Burnettsfield Patentee

Frederick Helmer² was probably the youngest son of Philip¹. He was probably born some time between 1702 and 1710, being the son mentioned in the Census of 1710 as being 8 years of age or under.

When the Burnettsfield Patent was granted April 30, 1725 he was granted Lot 1, the most westerly lot of the entire patent on the North side of the Mohawk river. This lot was the most exposed in the entire settlement to the attacks from the West during the French and Indian war of 1757 and 1758. It was about three and one-half miles to the west of the mouth of the West Canada creek where it empties into the Mohawk river.

Frederick Helmer was probably unmarried at the time the patent was granted as no wife was mentioned. It is very probable that he married soon afterwards, perhaps as early as 1728 to 1732.

Frederick Helmer married Maria Barbara Kast, daughter of Johann George Kast and his wife Anna—, also Burnettsfield Patentees.

Frederick Helmer and his wife Maria Barbara Kast were the parents of eight children. The will of the grandfather Johann George Kast was dated April 30, 1755 and left fifteen pounds in current money of New York to be divided among the eight

children of his daughter Maria Barbara and Frederick Helmer. The names of the eight children were not mentioned in his will. Although his will does not speak of his daughter Maria Barbara as being deceased, it is probable she had died prior to that date. Bequests were also made in his will to his other children

The family of Frederick Helmer lived in the vicinity of German Flatts or Herkimer until after the Revolution.

A Family One Hundred Per Cent Patriotic

Of the eight children of Frederick Helmer and Maria Barbara Kast the names of four sons are known. All four sons were soldiers in the Revolution. Three of these sons were at the battle of Oriskany, where one was killed and another wounded. He had two grandsons who were in the Revolution, one being fifteen years of age at the close of the Revolution and the other sixteen years of age when he enlisted. Every known man and boy of this family, who was old enough was a soldier in the Revolution.

Frederick Helmer and Maria Barbara Kast were the parents of eight children, the names of the four known sons being as follows:

1. Frederick F., probably born about 1735. He was twice married, the first record of children being in 1760. He was a member of the Tryon County Committee of Safety from the German Flatts district, and was a captain in General Herkimer's militia at the Battle of Oriskany where he was killed August 6, 1777. One of his sons was also a soldier in the Revolution.

2. George F., born about October 23, 1739. Died March 23, 1823. He was

a lieutenant in General Herkimer's militia at the Battle of Oriskany where he was wounded.

3. Philip F., born about 1740 Died June 8, 1830. From old letters information is obtained that he was a soldier in the Revolution but the name of his regiment cannot be determined. It is believed he was the Philip Helmer in the Fourth Regiment of the Tryon County Militia. One of his sons was also a soldier in the Revolution according to an old letter

4. Adam F. born 1754. Died April, 1830. He was a Lieutenant in a company of Rangers (Scouts) in the Tryon County Militia. He was the celebrated scout of the Mohawk Valley during the Revolution. He carried messages from General Herkimer to Colonel Willett who was being besieged at Fort Stanwix. These messages apprised Colonel Willet of the approach of General Herkimer's force. When General Herkimer's force was in action at the Battle of Oriskany, the garrison at Fort Stanwix made an attack upon the enemy's rear. The scout Adam F. Helmer was with Colonel Willet's force in the attack upon the enemy's rear, as will be shown in his pension record soon to be published in the Enterprise and News.

The French and Indian War

This family passed through two terrible Indian massacres. The first was on November 12, 1757, when a force of about three hundred French and Indians attacked and destroyed the settlement on the North side of the Mohawk river. At this time about forty inhabitants were killed and between one hundred and one hundred and fifty carried to Canada in captivity. Sixty houses and a large number of barns were burned by the French and Indians.

Reports differ as to the amount of destruction committed by the French and Indians in this raid. The French commander stated that immense quantities of grain had been destroyed. Also that 3,000 horned cattle, 3,000 sheep and 1,500 horses had either been killed or driven away. Historians have stated that no doubt this report was greatly exaggerated. The "Paris Documents" in one record state that 102 persons had been made prisoners while another report gives the number of prisoners taken as about 150 and that 40 men had been killed.

In the "London Documents" is found a report of the New York Colonial Lieutenant Governor James De Lancey dated January 5, 1758, to the Lords Commissioners of Trade to the effect that the settlement of German Flatts had been destroyed, some slain and about 100 carried to Canada into captivity. Also that the loss in property was estimated about twenty-thousand pounds in money, a large sum for those days. This report is perhaps the most authentic and can be relied upon.

A second attack occurred the following spring. On April 30, 1758, a small force of French and a large party of Indians attacked the settlement on the south side of the Mohawk river. In this attack about 30 inhabitants were killed but there is no record of prisoners being taken.

The account of the attacks upon German Flatts and later exchange of prisoners with the French in Canada are rarely spoken of in our American histories. These events occurred out on what was then the frontier and did not attract the attention they would have, had they been in the more thickly populated sections of the colonies.

Kanasarrago Indians Spy Upon the French

In the winter of 1757-1759 five Kanasarrago Indians from a settlement between Oneida and Onondaga were hired by Sir William Johnson's orders to spy on the French garrison at Swegachy (Ogdensburg). The French commander at Swegachy suspected them of being spies and sent them to the governor at Montreal. There the Indians saw some of the German prisoners who had been taken captive at German Flatts in 1757. The Indians spoke to some of the prisoners and offered to carry messages back to their friends in the colony.

Adam Helmer's Petition to General Johnson

Among the prisoners at Montreal was Adam Helmer who had been taken captive by the French in their raid upon German Flatts. Taking advantage of the opportunity of sending a message by the friendly Kanassarrago Indians, Adam Helmer addressed a petition to Sir William Johnson begging that something be done to secure their release.

His petition was as follows:

"March ye 12 day, 1759. Adam Helmer with other captives with the Indians their humble petition to General Johnson. We beg a Releasement for we are daily in fear of our lives, being in the hands of cruel Men. The French are sending Men to Crown Point and to other places for they are in great fear, their Provisions being very scarce and they cannot get any help from France."

Return of Prisoners from Canada

After the surrender of Quebec to the English in 1759 the prisoners at Montreal were delivered to Colonel Schuyler by the French. In October,

1759 over one hundred prisoners were returned from Montreal where most of them had been held captive almost two years.

Included in this number were about twenty-five whose names were familiar to the Mohawk Valley. Among these names were Helmer, Petry, Demuth, Nelles, Getman, Stahl, Weaver, Vedder, Harter, Hiltz and Bellinger.

Helmer Prisoners

Two militiamen by the names of Phillippe Almer and Phillipe Halmey and two women named Sclaine Almer and Marguerite Almer were among the prisoners of war returned from Canada. This quaint spelling may possibly be explained by the French being unable to understand the German pronunciation of these names. The name Sclaine was probably a mistake in the "Paris Documents" in copying the name Melaine.

The two men were probably of the same name Philip Helmer cousins, grandsons of Philip¹. The two women were probably Melaine (Magdalena) Helmer and Margaret Helmer, but of which branch of the Helmer family it is difficult to say.

Adam Helmer who signed the petition to General Johnson in the spring of 1759 was not in the list of prisoners returned to German Flatts in October, 1759. Whether he was the Burnettsfield Patentee or some other man of the same name is another difficult question.

Privations of the Prisoners

The experience of the Helmer family was typical of the hardships encountered by the German Palatines. After leaving the Fatherland fifty years of wanderings, toil, privation, devastation, captivity and death!

What a hardy and resolute people they were, those German Palatines! Going out into the wilderness they cleared land and built homes, reared large families and became substantial citizens.

The French and Indian war trained them in the use of arms, taught them to face the enemy and prepared them for the Revolution which was soon to come.

CHAPTER XI

Captain Frederick F. Helmer in the Revolution

Frederick F. Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹ was probably born about 1735. There appears no record of his birth, so it can only be assumed that this is the approximate date. His father was Frederick Helmer, Burnettsfield Patentee, who was probably unmarried at the time the patent was granted April 30, 1725. His mother was Maria Barbara Kast, the daughter of Johann George Kast and his wife Anna The reason that the year 1735 is given as the approximate date of the birth of Frederick F. or Frederick, Jr., as his name was sometimes written, is that his first child of which there appears a record was born in 1760.

Committee of Safety

Frederick F. Helmer was a member of the Tryon County Committee of Safety from the German Flatts District. In the "Minute Book" of the Tryon County Committee of Safety reference is made to many meetings at which he represented the German Flatts District. The members of these local committees of safety were among the most influential men in their community.

In the change from the monarchical to the republican form of gov-

ernment great responsibilities were placed upon these committees. They enacted and enforced laws, performed judicial and police duties, recruited soldiers, raised funds, furnished military supplies and safeguarded the rights of citizens. Without the sound judgment and foresight of these committees of safety there would have been no orderly government.

Captain Frederick F. Helmer was the first representative from the German Flatts District at a meeting of the Tryon County Committee of Safety held June 2, 1775. This was the first time German Flatts was represented. He was among the 850 men who marched from Fort Dayton to Oriskany under General Herkimer, many of whose names are unknown. He was a Captain in Colonel Peter Bellinger's Regiment and was killed at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777.

Sabina or Edwina

Captain Frederick F. Helmer was twice married. He married (1st) before 1760 Sabina or Edwina..... Her last name is not known but it is believed to have been either Schumacher or Hiltz. The name Sabina occurred in earlier generations of the Schumacher family and it is possible she may have been of that family. However, as members of the Hiltz family acted as sponsors at the baptism of her children on three different occasions, one is led to believe she may have been of the Hiltz family. Until there is definite proof, it is impossible to state who were her parents. Sabina, the first wife, died about 1769 or 1770.

Elizabeth Dygert

Captain Frederick F. Helmer married (2nd) about 1770 to 1772 Elizabeth Dygert born June, 1749, the eld-

est of sixteen children of William Dygert and his wife Maria Elizabeth Ecker. William Dygert was born at Schoharie, N. Y., October 3, 1723, and died at Frankfort, N. Y., May 28, 1802. William Dygert's parents were Johann Peter Dygert born near Strasburg, Germany, about 1680 and married about 1705 Anna Elizabeth Fuchs (Fox). They emigrated to America with the Palatines about 1709 or 1710. Johann Peter Dygert was still living in 1755 and his wife Anna Elizabeth Fuchs was still living in 1752.

William Dygert was at the Battle of Oriskany with his three sons William, Jr., George and Peter Dygert. He moved to the town of Frankfort about ten years before the Revolution. Maria Elizabeth Ecker his first wife died about 1769 and he married August 21, 1770, his second wife Margaret Cunningham.

After her first husband was killed at the Battle of Oriskany Elizabeth Dygert married John Demuth, also a soldier in the Revolution.

Children of Capt. Frederick F. Helmer

Captain Frederick F. Helmer and his first wife Sabina or Edwina..... were the parents of six children:

1. Johann George (George), born November 13, 1760. Sponsors Nicholas Hiltz and Elizabeth Fox, his wife. Johann George probably died young as another child was born seven years later and given the same name.

2. Johann Frederick (Frederick) born April 14, 1763. Sponsors George Helmer and Anna Maria Mayer.

3. Johannes (John F.) born September 3, 1765. Sponsors Johannes Hiltz and Anna Weber.

4. Johann George (George) born November 14, 1767. Sponsors George Hiltz and Appollonia Harter. No fur-

ther record of him is found. Probably died young.

5. Anna born January 22, 1769. Sponsors Philip Helmer and Anna Mayer, his wife.

6. Edwina or Sabina.

Captain Frederick F. Helmer and his second wife Elizabeth Dygert were the parents of four children:

7. William F., born July 19, 1773.

8. Elizabeth.

9. Peter F., born about 1776.

10. Henry F., born December 30, 1777. Sponsors William Dygert and Margaret.

Frederick F. Helmer, Jr.

Frederick F. Helmer⁴, Captain Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born April 14, 1763. On May 2, 1813, he acted as sponsor at the baptism of one of his brother Henry F.'s children. The church record here says he was unmarried. He was then fifty years of age and probably never married. Another church record March 2, 1817 gives him as a witness at the marriage of a nephew Adam Staring, the son of Edwina Helmer. There is no record of his death, which occurred some time after March 2, 1817.

In the Census of 1790 he is given as the head of a family. This family consisted of two males of sixteen years of age and upwards, one male under sixteen years, and three females ages not given. As his next older brother John F. is also given in the same census as unmarried and separately listed, this family consisted of Frederick F. Helmer, unmarried, as the head of the family, his brother William F. then seventeen years, Henry F. aged thirteen years, and his three sisters Anna, Edwina and Elizabeth. These were the orphaned children of Capt. Frederick F. Helmer (killed at Oriskany August 6, 1777) some by the first wife Sabi-

na..... and the others by the second wife Elizabeth Dygert. The second wife Elizabeth Dygert had married again and these children apparently were not listed as a part of her family.

Information has just been obtained that Frederick F. Helmer, Jr. born April 14, 1763, was also a soldier in the Revolution, a Private in the Fourth Regiment, Tryon County Militia, commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. There were two men named Frederick Helmer in this regiment one being Frederick A. (son of Adam) and the other Frederick or Frederick F. (son of Frederick). This information is subject to further proof. If true, then another name should be added to the list of Helmers serving in the Revolution.

John F. Helmer

John F. Helmer⁴, Captain Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born September 3, 1765. Died at Herkimer November 26, 1829. Married Easter Sunday, 1797 Margaret Munterbach, daughter of Johannes Munterbach. John F. Helmer and his wife Margaret Munterbach were the parents of ten children.

John F. Helmer was a soldier in the Revolution. He enlisted at the age of sixteen years and served two and one-half years in the war.

His pension record and family will appear in a later article.

Edwina or Sabina Helmer

Edwina (or Sabina) Helmer⁴, Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married February 5, 1792 Peter Staring, son of Adam Staring. Edwina's name was also written Wena or Sabina.

They were the parents of six children:

1. Margaret, born June 2, 1793.

Sponsors John Helmer and Margaret Harter.

2. Adam.

3. Edwina, born October 19, 1797. Sponsors John Heier (Hoyer?) and Anna Helmer.

4. Elizabeth.

5. George Frederick born December 4, 1801. Sponsors George Frederick Hayer (Hoyer?)

6. Anna, born October 12, 1804. Sponsors Peter Helmer, blacksmith, and Anna Starring, his wife, of German Flatts.

William F. Helmer

William F. Helmer⁴, Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born July 19, 1773. Died October 18, 1841. Married September 21, 1794, Elizabeth Myers, daughter of Frederick Myers. Elizabeth Myers was born September 16, 1774, and died September 20, 1857. William F. Helmer was a blacksmith in the village of Herkimer.

They were the parents of one son, possibly more.

1. Frederick, born March 11, 1796.

Peter F. Helmer

Peter F. Helmer⁴, Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born about 1776. Died February 14, 1821. Married Mary Anna (Anna) Staring. Peter F. Helmer like his brother William F. was also a blacksmith, but was located at German Flatts, on the south side of the Mohawk river.

Peter F. Helmer and his wife Anna Staring were the parents of two daughters:

1. Elizabeth born March 31, 1802. Sponsors John Demuth and Elizabeth Dygert, his wife, formerly the widow of Captain Frederick F. Helmer.

2. Anna, born June 10, 1804. Sponsors Nicholas Ittig (Edick) and Anna Helmer, unmarried.

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Henry F. Helmer

Henry F. Helmer⁴, Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born December 30, 1777. This was nearly five months after his father had been killed at the Battle of Oriskany. He married March 9, 1806 Eva Myers⁴, daughter of Frederick³, Henry², Henry¹. Eva Myers was born May 8, 1789 and confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church September 20, 1806.

Henry F. Helmer and his wife Eva Myers were the parents of nine children:

1. Elizabeth born October 25, 1807.
2. Anna Margaret, born about 1809. Died October 6, 1822.
3. Catharine born November 23, 1811. Sponsors Frederick Myers and Anna Margaret his wife.
4. Eva (twin) born May 2, 1813. Sponsors Frederick Helmer and Anna Myers, unmarried.
5. Maria (twin) born May 2, 1813. Sponsors Frederick Bellinger and Catharine Cristman.
6. Rhode, born April 18, 1816. Sponsors Maria, widow of Nicholas Staring.
7. Anna, born January 31, 1819. Sponsors Henry F. Myers and Elizabeth, his wife.
8. Jeremiah, born February 18, 1823. Sponsors Christopher Bellinger and Catharine Myers.
9. Margaret, born March 25, 1826. Sponsors William Dallcott (Talcott) and Margaret Bellinger, unmarried.

Adam Staring

Adam Staring⁵, Edwina Helmer⁴, Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married March 2nd, 1817 Catharine Hess, daughter of Frederick Hess, witnesses at the marriage were Frederick Helmer, Jr. and David Hess. No record of children.

Edwina Staring⁵, Edwina Helmer⁴,

Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born October 19, 1797. Married January 30, 1822, Hubard Barber son of Jonathan Barber and Lucretia Palmer, his wife, of Frankfort, N. Y.
No record of children.

Elizabeth Staring

Elizabeth Staring⁵, Edwina Helmer⁴, Capt. Frederick³, Frederick², Philip¹, married February 3, 1822, John Ingraham, son of Benjamin Ingraham and Anna Steel.

No record of children.

George Frederick Staring

George Frederick Staring⁵, Edwina Helmer⁴, Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born December 4, 1801. Married November 4, 1830 Mary Jane Myers, born about 1813, daughter of Peter H. Myers and Sally Stevens, his wife.

No record of children.

Frederick Helmer

Frederick Helmer⁵, William⁴, Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born March 11, 1796. Died July 16, 1869. Married December 20, 1818 Anna (Nancy) Bellinger, born October 2, 1793, died May 11, 1872, daughter of Christopher Bellinger and Anna Harter, his wife.

Frederick Helmer and Nancy Bellinger, his wife, were the parents of seven children:

1. Elizabeth, born either November 11, 1819 or July 19, 1820. Died August 30, 1821.
2. William Henry, born November 2, 1823.
3. Anna Margaret, born September 2, (?) (Year not legible). Sponsors Christopher Bellinger and Margaret, his wife.
4. Catharine, born August 17, 1826.

Sponsors Michael Harter and Anna, his wife.

5. Frederick.

6. Christopher, born January 12, 1830.

7. Elizabeth, born December 6, 1833.

Anna Helmer

Anna Helmer⁵, Peter F.⁴, Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born June 10, 1804. Married June 10, 1830, Christopher Hartman, born about 1803.

No record of children.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth Helmer⁵, Henry F.⁴, Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born October 25, 1807. She was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church in September, 1824, at the age of 17 years. She married December 26, 1827, Hiram Joslin, son of Silvester Joslin of Frankfort, N. Y.

No record of children.

Eva Helmer

Eva Helmer⁵, Henry F.⁴, Capt. Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born May 2, 1813. Married August 6, 1835, Jacob Hyser, son of Henry Hyser and Madlene Smith, his wife.

No record of children.

CHAPTER XII.

Lieutenant George F. Helmer in the Revolution

George F. Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born about October 23, 1739. Some records give this as the date of his birth, while another record states he was born in 1740. He died March 23, 1822-3, aged 82 years 5 months. He married January 9, 1770, Margaret Mayer, born April 14, 1751, died February 26, 1818. Both are bur-

ied in the Columbia cemetery, Herkimer county, N. Y.

George F. Helmer was a lieutenant in Captain Small's company in a regiment of militia commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. His pension record states that he became disabled in the service of the United States in consequence of a wound in his left arm in the Oriskany Battle on August 6, 1777, for which he received an invalid pension in 1786. This pension was increased in 1816 to \$15 per month, which sum he continued to receive to the time of his death.

Lieutenant George F. Helmer and wife Margaret Mayer (Myers) were the parents of nine children:

1. Adam, born November 13, 1770. Sponsors Adam F. Helmer (the scout) and Anna Margaret Bellinger, his wife.

2. George F. born March 1, 1772.

3. Mary Catherine died in infancy.

4. Jacob born February 25, 1778. Sponsors Jacob Mayer and Margaret.

5. Maria Barbara, born December 25, 1780. Sponsors Lorentz..... and Maria Barbara..... (The last names of the sponsors were not legible, probably Harter).

6. Margaret, born July 28, 1783. Sponsors Joh. Jost Bellinger and Maria Barbara Harter.

7. Peter born June 20, 1786. Sponsors Adam Staring and Catharine.

8. Anna born March 6, 1790. Sponsors Joseph Mayer and Anna Mayer.

9. Eva, born November 28, 1792. Sponsors Thomas Schumacher and Anna Eva.

George F. Helmer, Jr.

George F. Helmer, Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born March 1, 1772. Died in July, 1821. Married either in January or February, 1796, Elizabeth Thum, daughter of Mel-

choir Thum (Domb). Witnesses at their marriage were Joe. Nicholas Thum and Margaret Helmer, his wife. Elizabeth Thum was born January 24, 1772, died in October, 1832. Buried in the section known as the Woolf neighborhood near Georgetown, Harrison County, Indiana.

George F. Helmer, Jr., located with his family in Harrison County, Indiana, as early as 1817. He was a merchant. On one trip to New Orleans with boats laden with produce after making sales he was found robbed and murdered in his boat, supposedly by boat hands. No trace was found of the murderers or money.

George F. Helmer, Jr., and Elizabeth Thum, his wife, were the parents of eight children:

1. Jacob, born October 14, 1796. Died June 24, 1816.
2. Joseph, born Jan. 2, 1798. Died May 29, 1815.
3. Margaret, born Aug. 2, 1800.
4. Melchert, born April 28, 1802. Sponsors Joe. Nicholas Thum and Margaret Helmer, his wife.
5. Elizabeth, born March 4, 1804. Sponsors Rudolph Devendorf and Barbara, his wife.
6. Jeremiah, born March 26, 1806.
7. Mary, born Nov. 25, 1808. Died June 9, 1815.
8. Calvin born July 7, 1815. Died October 1, 1817.

(Note—These children are descendants of the Revolution on both paternal and maternal sides, tracing back through Elizabeth to Melchoir Thum on the maternal side. Melchoir Thum or Dum was a private in Col. Klock's regiment thus giving these descendants two bars in the first generation.)

Jacob Helmer⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born Feb. 25, 1778. Died 1839. Buried in Columbia cemetery, Herkimer county. Married April

6, 1806, Elizabeth Klock, daughter of Henry Klock. Elizabeth Klock was born August 8, 1786, died May 10, 1843. Jacob Helmer lived in the town of Warren, Herkimer county.

Jacob Helmer

Jacob Helmer and his wife Elizabeth Klock were the parents of eight children:

1. Margaret born April 5, 1807.
2. Chauncey, born April 18, 1810. Sponsors John Frederick Frank and Anna....., his wife, of German Flatts. Chauncey Helmer died April 7, 1831.
3. Maria Catherine (or Mary Jane) born July 18, 1812. Sponsors Eva Helmer and Robert Klock, unmarried.
4. Caroline, born April 3, 1814. Sponsors John Klock and Margaret Helmer his wife. Caroline Helmer died April 13, 1814.
5. George Henry, born June 23, 1817. Sponsor Gertrude Helmer of German Flatts.
6. Elizabeth, born June 25, 1819. Died January 23, 1902.
7. Jacob Adam, born June 25, 1824. Died January 4, 1839.
8. Bianca Katherine, born Feb. 20, 1829. Died May, 1893.

Maria Barbara Helmer

Maria Barbara Helmer⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born December 25, 1780. Married November 21, 1802 John Clapsattle, son of Augustinus Clapsattle.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Joannes (John) born Dec. 12, 1803. Sponsors Joe. Adam Helmer and Elizabeth Clapsattle, unmarried.
2. Margaret, born May 12, 1805. George Helmer and Margaret Myers (Mayer) his wife, uncle and aunt, of Warrentown.
3. Anna, born Sept. 17, 1808. Spon-

sors William Dygert and Anna Helmer, unmarried.

4. Peter, born Feb. 22, 1810. Sponsors Peter F. Helmer and Gertrude Schumacher of German Flatts.

This line has not been traced out, but from fragmentary data some of the grandchildren of John Clapsattle and Maria Barbara Helmer were:

1. Mrs. Daniel (or David) Casler of Mohawk.

2. Jacob who married Elizabeth Klock.

3. Maria who married Jeremiah Haner, among whose grandchildren are John C. Miller of Miller Mills, Sandford Gartman of Schuyler, A. G. Gartman of Frankfort and Mrs. Monroe Helmer of Herkimer.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born July 28, 1783. Died 1842. Married December 25, 1806, John Klock, son of Henry J. Klock. John Klock was born 1784, died 1867.

They were the parents of eight children:

1. Anna born November 5, 1807. Sponsors Peter Klock and Anna....., his wife.

2. Sanford, born Jan. 16, 1810. Sponsors Magdalena Klock and Joe. Joseph Petry, unmarried.

3. Robert, born July 25, 1812. Sponsor Margaret Klock, widow, aunt.

4. Caroline, born May 13, 1815. Sponsors Jacob Helmer and Elizabeth Klock, his wife.

5. Lucinda, born Oct. 22, 1820. Sponsors Peter Eisemann and Catherine, his wife.

6. Henry, born May 19, 1823. Sponsors Jacob Eisemann and Maria, his wife.

7. Mary Ann, born April 7, 1826. Sponsors Benjamin Petry and Elizabeth, his wife.

8. Margaret, born Sept. 19, 1828. Sponsors parents.

Peter Helmer

Peter Helmer⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born June 20, 1786. Married Dec. 3, 1809 Gertrude Shoemaker born 1786, daughter of Joseph Shoemaker. Peter Helmer died before March 3, 1830 on which date his widow married a second time.

No record of children.

Gertrude Shoemaker, widow of Peter G. Helmer at the age of 44 married on March 3, 1830 Darius Dexter aged 45.

Eva Helmer

Eva Helmer⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born Nov. 28, 1792. She was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church at the age of 18 on Sept. 30, 1810. She married Oct. 10, 1819 Marcus Crantz, Jr., son of Marcus Crantz. Marcus Crantz was a soldier in the war of 1812. Crantz in later generations was Grant.

No children.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁵, George F. Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born Aug. 2, 1800. Died 1868. Married Jonas Howard. Moved with her parents to Indiana about 1817.

Margaret Helmer and her husband Jonas Howard had one son:

1. Jonas George.

Melchert Helmer

Melchert Helmer⁵, George F. Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born April 28, 1802 in Herkimer county. Died June 13, 1876 at Springville, Indiana. Married 1826 Lucinda Burford Haggerty, daughter of William Haggerty and his wife Nancy Burford

of Mercer County, Kentucky. Lucinda Burford Haggerty was born April 25, 1805. Died Sept. 28, 1879.

They were the parents of seven children:

1. Lucinda.
2. Elizabeth Ann.
3. Mary Jane.
4. Margaret.

Three other children died in infancy.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth Helmer⁵, George F. Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born March 5, 1804 in Herkimer county May 9, 1891, married Thomas Jefferson Howard, born 1802, died 1879. Lived in Floyd county, Indiana.

They were the parents of the following:

1. Andrew J. born 1834.
2. Huldah.

Jeremiah Helmer

Jeremiah Helmer⁵, George F. Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born March 26, 1806 in Herkimer county. Moved with his parents to Indiana about 1817. Died about 1842. Married Mary Haggerty.

No record of children.

Maria Catherine Helmer

Maria Catherine (Mary Jane) Helmer⁵, Jacob⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born July 18, 1812. Died Jan. 13, 1892. Married Henry Casler.

No record of children.

Robert Klock

Robert Klock⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born July 25, 1812. Died 1899. Married 1840 Catherine Snell born 1814, died 1884.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Amanda E., born at St. Johnsville N. Y. who married John P. Swartout.

Jonas George Howard

Jonas George Howard⁶, Margaret Helmer⁵, George F., Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Martha Jane..... and lived in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Anna who married William T. Ingram.

Lucinda Helmer

Lucinda Helmer⁶, Melchert⁵, George F., Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married 1854 Dr. James R. Zearing. They lived in Dover, Illinois.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Charlotte Lucinda, born in Dover, Ill. who married Buel P. Colton.
2. Luella Margaretta born in Illinois, who married James Ellsworth Gross.
3. Lizzie Ruth who died at the age of 12 years.
4. James who married Florence Pier, and lived at Des Moines, Iowa.

Elizabeth Ann Helmer

Elizabeth Ann Helmer⁶, Melchert⁵, George F. Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Madison Boyd Garten and lived in Illinois.

They were the parents of one son:

1. Melchert who married Mary Frances Alford.

Mary Jane Helmer

Mary Jane Helmer⁶, Melchert⁵, Geo. F.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married first Edward Stannard and second Andrew Broaddus. Six children by the first marriage, names not known. No children by second marriage.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁶, Melchert⁵, Geo. F. Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Sylvester Hinman. They were the parents of six children, names not known.

Andrew J. Howard

Andrew J. Howard⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, George F., Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born 1834. Died 1897. Married 1870 Susan E. Crothers, born 1850. They lived in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

They were the parents of one daughter:

1. Elizabeth L. born in Jeffersonville, Indiana who married Clark.

Huldah Howard

Huldah Howard⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, George F. Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born about 1825. Married Hiram Weaver Heaton. They lived in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Clara who married Edward Wright Fitch.
2. Herman Howard who married Julia Worthley.
3. Bettie who married Richard M. Hartwell.

Charlotte Lucinda Zearing

Charlotte Lucinda Zearing⁶, Lucinda Helmer⁵, George F., Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born at Dover, Illinois. Married Buel P. Colton who died September, 1906. Mrs. Colton was regent of the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the D. A. R. at Bloomington, Ill.

They were the parents of three children:

1. James Zearing.
2. Emily.
3. Buel Kingsley.

Melchert Garten

Melchert Garten⁷, Elizabeth Ann Helmer⁶, Melchert⁵, George F. Jr.⁴, Geo. F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Mary Francis Alford.

They were the parents of one daughter:

1. Blanche born in Illinois, now living at Lincoln, Neb.

Clara Heaton

Clara Heaton⁷, Huldah Howard⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, George F., Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born in Jeffersonville, Indiana. She married Edward Wright Fitch.

They were the parents of a daughter:

Ellice born in Jeffersonville, Indiana who married Julian Craven Hall, Jr.

Herman Howard Heaton

Herman Howard Heaton⁷, Huldah Howard⁶, Elizabeth Ann Helmer⁵, George F. Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Julia Worthley, lived at Jeffersonville, Indiana.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Clara who married William Ware Stephens.

Bettie Heaton

Bettie Heaton⁷, Huldah Howard⁶, Elizabeth Ann Helmer⁵, George F. Jr.⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Richard M. Hartwell. Lived at Jeffersonville, Indiana.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Clara born in Jeffersonville, Indiana who married John H. Lewman.

CHAPTER XIII

Philip F. Helmer in the Revolution
Philip F. Helmer³, Frederick², Phil-

ip¹ was born about July, 1740. This date is only approximate. His death is recorded in the Herkimer Reformed Church "June 8, 1830, Philip Helmer, widower, aged 90 years, less 1 month and some days."

Deducting his age from the date of his death, would make July 1740 as the approximate date of his birth. The date of the birth of his brother George F. was either October 23, 1739 or 1740. This would bring up the question that they may have been twins. There seems to be no way of verifying if they were twins.

Philip F. Helmer married July 17, 1764, Anna Mayer (Myers) born about 1747, died August 12, 1829.

Philip F. Helmer was a soldier in the Revolution according to old letters of the family. There were three (possibly more) men by the name of Philip Helmer who were soldiers in the Revolution and it is difficult to tell in which regiment he served. It is believed he was the Philip Helmer in the Fourth Regiment of the Tryon County Militia. No application was ever made by him for a pension on account of his Revolutionary service.

Philip F. Helmer and Anna Myers, his wife, were the parents of five children, probably more:

1. Elizabeth, born September 11, 1765. Sponsors Elizabeth Folts and Adam Helmer.

2. Frederick (sometimes written as Han Frederick and Johann Frederick) born February 17, 1768. Died January 29, 1826. Never married. Sponsors at his baptism were Captain Frederick F. Helmer and Sabina (Wena) his wife.

3. George P. (sometimes written as Johann George and George Ph.) born May 25, 1769. Sponsors George Helmer and Margaret Mayer (Myers).

4. Maria Barbara (sometimes written Barbara) born January 11, 1771.

Died May 4, 1838. Never married. Sponsors at her baptism were Catharine and Staring (first name not legible).

5. Peter P. born about 1773.

George P. Helmer

George P. Helmer⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born at Herkimer May 25, 1769. Died September 14, 1849, aged 80 years at Stone Mills, Jefferson County, N. Y. He married May 11, 1790 Catharine Staring, daughter of Henry Staring and Elizabeth Hess, his wife. Both are buried at Stone Mills; N. Y.

Henry Staring was a soldier in the Revolution. He was taken prisoner by the Indians and while being taken to Canada made his escape and returned to the fort at Herkimer. Henry Staring and his wife Elizabeth Hess are buried at Herkimer.

George P. Helmer also was a soldier in the Revolution according to an old letter written by a grandson. Born May 25, 1769 he was but fourteen years of age when the treaty of peace was signed in 1783 with Great Britain. His name was probably not on any muster roll. He was one of the youngest soldiers in the Revolution. The grandson stated in the old letter that he had heard his grandfather say he did sentinel duty at the fort, using a pitchfork as a weapon as there were not guns enough for all. George P. was probably one of those young lads who in their enthusiasm could not be prevented from doing their duty, although not listed as a soldier.

George P. Helmer with some of his family moved to Stone Mills, Jefferson County, N. Y. in 1837. Some of his children had already married and lived in the vicinity of Herkimer.

George P. Helmer and his wife Catharine Staring were the parents

of twelve children, one of whom died in infancy. The names of the eleven children were:

1. Henry born June 25, 1790. Sponsors Col. Henry Staring and Elizabeth Hess, his wife.

2. Philip, born April 23, 1792. Sponsors Philip Helmer and Anna Myers, his wife.

3. Elizabeth (Betsy) born September 5, 1794. Sponsors Peter Helmer and Elizabeth Staring.

4. Michael, probably born about 1796 to 1798.

5. Charity (also known as Gertrude) born about 1799.

6. Nicholas, born about 1801.

7. Augustinus (Tenus), born January 10, 1803. Sponsors Augustinus Staring and Barbara Helmer.

8. Nancy (Anna) born December 3, 1804. Sponsors Henry J. Myers and Anna, his wife.

9. Mary (Maria) born January 19, 1808. Sponsors Peter Myers and Maria Staring, unmarried.

10. Benjamin, born November 4, 1809. Sponsors Michael M. Myers and Anna Herder, unmarried.

11. Catharine, born March 17, 1813. Sponsors Henry M. Myers and Maria, his wife.

Peter P. Helmer

Peter P. Helmer⁴, Philip³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born about 1773. He married Margaret Dygert born October 7, 1777, either in the Town of Palatine or Canajoharie. She died November 7, 1838. She was the daughter of William Dygert and his wife Agnes Thum, granddaughter of Henry Dygert and his wife Margaret, and great granddaughter of Johan Peter Dygert and his wife Anna Elizabeth Fuchs (Fox). The record of her death at Herkimer November 7, 1838, gives her age as 61 years 1 month.

Peter P. Helmer and his wife Mar-

garet Dygert were the parents of ten children:

1. Timothy born about 1802. Confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church October 26, 1817 at the age of 15 years.

2. Margaret, born May 22, 1803. Sponsors Joe. Nicholas Thum and Margaret Helmer, his wife.

3. Catharine, born March 8, 1805. Sponsors Philip Helmer, her grandfather, and Appolonia Harter.

4. Anna, born November 25, 1806. Sponsors Philip Helmer and Anna Myers, his wife, grandparents.

5. Elizabeth, born September 19, 1808. Sponsors Severinus Dygert and Catharine Myers, unmarried.

6. Maria, born February 21, 1811. Sponsors Peter Dygert and Catharine Getman, unmarried.

7. Severinus, born May 7, 1813. Sponsors Henry J. Myers and Anna Helmer, his wife.

8. Eva born Jan. 8, 1815. Sponsors Philip G. Helmer and Magdalena his wife. Eva Helmer died December 10, 1832, aged 17 years.

9. Susanna, born July 21, 1819. Sponsors John H. Myers and Eva Herder (Harter).

10. Peter William, born October 14, 1822. Sponsors Peter Smith and Dorothy Steel, his wife.

Henry Helmer

Henry Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born June 25, 1790. He married February 10, 1810 Elizabeth Mayer (Myers), daughter of William Mayer. They lived in the Town of Schuyler, Herkimer County in the year 1816. This town is on the north side of the Mohawk river and adjoins Oneida County.

Henry Helmer and his wife Elizabeth Mayer (Myers) were the parents of four children:

1. Elizabeth, born March 5, 1811. Sponsors Elizabeth Helmer and Henry A. Herder (Harter), unmarried.

2. William Henry, born May 23, 1813. Sponsors Henry F. Myers and Anna, his wife.

3. Gertrude born September 24, 1815. Sponsors Frederick Helmer and Gertrude Helmer.

4. John.

Philip G. Helmer

Philip G. Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born April 23, 1792. Married May 15, 1815, Magdalena Schumacher, daughter of Christopher Schumacher. Philip G. Helmer and his family lived in the Town of Deerfield, Oneida County, N. Y., from 1824 to 1829. It is possible that he lived a short time in Allegany County, N. Y. Later he moved to the State of Michigan, where he died. Some of his children also moved to Michigan.

George P. Helmer and his wife Magdalena Schumacher were the parents of five children:

1. Jeremiah born February 17, 1817. Sponsors George Helmer and Catharine Staring, his wife.

2. Delia, born May 29, 1829. Sponsor Michael Helmer.

3. Sanford born May 10, 1824. Sponsors George Stevens and Anna Helmer his wife. Sanford Helmer moved to Michigan with his parents.

4. George who moved to Michigan with his parents.

5. Joseph Christopher, born September 8, 1829. Sponsor Catharine Cox.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip P.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born September 5, 1794. She was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church on September 30, 1810, at the age of 16 years. She married

(1st) June 20, 1812, Peter Dygert, son of William Dygert. They lived in the Town of Fowler, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., in 1821. Elizabeth Helmer married (2nd) Stephen Mosier.

Elizabeth Helmer and her first husband Peter Dygert were the parents of six children:

1. Mary (Maria) born January 13, 1813. Sponsors Henry Dygert and Barbara, his wife. Mary Dygert lived at Mohawk, Herkimer County.

2. George Henry, born December 14, 1814. Sponsors Henry Mayer (Myers) and Anna, his wife. George Henry Dygert lived at Gouverneur, N. Y.

3. Catharine, born September 19, 1816. Sponsors Philip Helmer, Jr., and Magdalena Helmer. Catharine Dygert probably died young.

4. Eva, born April 6, 1818. Sponsors Gertrude Helmer and Timothy, unmarried. Eva Dygert probably died young.

5. Joram, born December 4, 1819. Sponsors Michael Helmer and Apollonia Herder, unmarried. Joram Dygert moved to the State of Illinois.

6. Elizabeth, born March 7, 1821. Sponsors Nicholas Helmer and Elizabeth Smith. Elizabeth Dygert moved to the State of Michigan.

Elizabeth Helmer and her second husband Stephen Mosier were the parents of one daughter:

7. Helen who after the death of her parents moved to the State of Michigan.

Michael Helmer

Michael Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Mary Conderman (Countryman). Michael Helmer located in the Town of Fremont, Steuben County, N. Y.

Michael Helmer and his wife Mary Countryman were the parents of eleven children, the first two being born at Herkimer:

1. Adam, born November 9, 1822. Sponsors Philip G. Helmer and Magdalena Schumacher, uncle and aunt.

2. Elizabeth, born March 29, 1825. Sponsors Nicholas Smith and Gertrude Helmer, his wife.

3. George.

4. Catharine.

5. Roby.

6. Mary Ann.

7. Jacob.

8. Harriet M.

9. Michael M.

10. Cyrus C.

11. Benjamin, who died young.

Charity Helmer

Charity (Gertrude) Helmer⁵, Geo. P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born about 1799. She was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church in 1816 at the age of 17 years. She married June 8, 1823, Nicholas Smith, Jr., son of Nicholas Smith and Apollonia, his wife. Charity Helmer and her husband Nicholas Smith, Jr., lived at Herkimer. They were the parents of three children:

1. George, born November 23, 1823. Sponsors Joseph Smith and Anna Helmer, unmarried.

2. Elizabeth, who never married.

3. Nicholas, born May 4, 1830. Probably died young. Sponsors at his baptism Jacob Falk and Mary Helmer

Nicholas Helmer

Nicholas Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born about 1801. He was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church in 1816 at the age of 15 years. He married (1st) Roby Easterbrook. They owned a farm at Antwerp, Jefferson county, N. Y. He married second, wife's name unknown.

Nicholas Helmer and his wife Roby

Easterbrook were the parents of a son:

1. Abial E.

Nicholas Helmer and his second wife had children but names are not known.

Augustinus Helmer

Augustinus (Tenus) Helmer⁵, Geo. P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born January 10, 1803. Married May 18, 1823, Dorothy Petry, daughter of Richard Petry and his wife Elizabeth Eiseman. Their first two children were born at Fairfield, N. Y. Later they moved to Adams, Jefferson county, N. Y. They had several children the names of only two being known.

They were the parents of two daughters:

1. Catharine Elizabeth, born April 16, 1824. Sponsors Nicholas Helmer and Elizabeth Helmer, unmarried.

2. Axianna, born December 2, 1828. Sponsors Philip Helmer and Madlene, his wife.

Anna Helmer

Anna (Nancy) Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born at Herkimer December 3, 1804. She married George Stevens and lived at Adams, Jefferson county, N. Y.

They were the parents of several children, the name of one son being:

1. George, Jr. who died in the Civil War.

Mary Helmer

Mary (Maria) Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born January 19, 1808, at Herkimer. She married November 6, 1832, Peter Dygert, son of Henry Dygert and his wife Barbara Schell. The witnesses at their marriage were Ludovik Helmer of Fairfield and Henry Helmer of Newport. Mary Helmer and her

husband Peter Dygert moved to Oneida county, N. Y.

Mary Helmer and her husband Peter Dygert were the parents of three sons:

1. George.
2. Norman.
3. William.

Benjamin Helmer

Benjamin Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born at Herkimer November 4, 1809. Died at Almond, Allegany County, N. Y. in February, 1884. He married February 27, 1834 Elizabeth (Betsy) Schell, born 1817, daughter of John Schell, Jr. and his wife Anna Hiltz. Elizabeth Schell was a descendant of Christian Schell of Revolutionary fame.

Benjamin Helmer and his wife moved from Herkimer to Stone Mills, Jefferson county, N. Y. about the year 1837. They lived at Stone Mills for about eighteen years and in 1855 moved to the Town of Almond, Allegany county, N. Y. Both are buried at Almond. All their children were born in Jefferson county.

They were the parents of six children:

1. Mary born April 10, 1837 in the Town of Orleans, Jefferson County. Baptized at Herkimer January 20, 1839. Sponsors parents. Mary Helmer married A. J. Radle and lived at Hornell, Steuben county, N. Y.

2. Isaac lived at Almond, Allegany county, N. Y.

3. Kate never married.

4. Maria married Addison Roberts and lived at Hornell, N. Y.

5. Emma who married G. M. Butler and lived at Hornell, N. Y.

6. George P. died in infancy. Buried at Stone Mills, Jefferson county.

Catharine Helmer

Catharine Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born March 17, 1813 at Herkimer. She was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church on October 2, 1830, at the age of 17 years. She married November 13, 1831, John A. Folts⁵ whose ancestry was Conrad⁴, Melchert³, Johan Conrad², Melchert¹. John A. Folts was born about 1811.

They were the parents of two children:

1. A daughter who died in infancy.
2. George Philo (usually called Philo) who died about 1911 at Herkimer. He was the founder of the Folts Mission Institute at Herkimer.

Timothy Helmer

Timothy Helmer⁵, Peter P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born about 1802. He died August 4, 1853. He was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church at the age of 15 years on October 26, 1817. He married Catharine Kast, a sister of George Kast.

They were the parents of seven children:

1. Simon, born November 18, 1822. Sponsors Margaret Helmer and Conrad Cast (Kast), unmarried.

2. Sanford, born May 28, 1824. Sponsors Adam Hyser and Delia Cast, unmarried.

3. Joseph, born January 22, 1826. Sponsors Thomas Cast and Anna Helmer.

4. Aaron, born April 13, 1830. Sponsors George Cast and Anna, his wife.

5. Anna Elizabeth, born February 28, 1832. Sponsors John J. Herder and Maria Helmer, his wife.

6. Timothy, born November 26, 1838. Sponsors parents.

7. Jeremiah, born November 2, 1841. Sponsors parents.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁵, Peter P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born May 22, 1803. She was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church at the age of 15 years on October 26, 1817. She married January 4, 1824, Jacob L. Herder, son of Laurence L. Herder and Margaret Piper, his wife. Witness at their marriage was Nicholas Helmer.

No record of children.

Catharine Helmer

Catharine Helmer⁵, Peter P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born March 8, 1805. She married September 4, 1825, Jacob L. Herder, son of Laurence F. Herder and Catharine Weber, his wife.

No record of children.

Maria Helmer

Maria Helmer⁵, Peter P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born February 21, 1811. She married January 12, 1832 John J. Herder born about 1812, son of Jacob Herder and Madlene McCombs, his wife.

No record of children.

Susanna Helmer

Susanna Helmer⁵, Peter P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born July 21, 1819. She married October 29, 1843, George Huyk (Hauck) son of Gerrit Huyk and Madlene Cash (Cast?) his wife.

No record of children.

Note—The Herkimer Reformed Church record is in error in stating that Susanna Helmer was the daughter of Peter P. Helmer and Margaret Domb (Thum) deceased. Her parents were Peter P. Helmer and Margaret Dygert and her grandparents were William Dygert and Agnes Thum.

Mary Dygert

Mary Dygert⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born January 13, 1813. She married November 6, 1832, Matheis Helmer, born about 1810, son of Philip Helmer, Jr. They lived at Mohawk, Herkimer county, N. Y.

No record of children.

George Smith

George Smith⁶, Charity Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born November 23, 1823. He married Catharine Dygert, daughter of Peter Dygert and Catharine Hess, his wife. They lived at Herkimer.

No record of children.

Abial E. Helmer

Abial E. Helmer⁶, Nicholas⁵, Geo. P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, lived in the vicinity of Antwerp, Jefferson county, N. Y. His wife's name is not known.

They had one daughter:

1. Sara who married James McIntosh, who lived at Ogdensburg, N. Y.

Simon Helmer

Simon Helmer⁶, Timothy⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born November 18, 1822 at Herkimer. He married Sarah E. Stearns. Simon Helmer was a carpenter by trade and lost his life through a faulty scaffold which gave way with him. He lived at Herkimer.

Simon Helmer and his wife Sarah E. Stearns were the parents of six children, according to an old letter written over twenty years ago. This letter was very difficult to read, and the names of the children are very hard to make out and subject to possible correction.

They were:

1. G. M. (initials only were given) who in 1908 was proprietor of the Herkimer Mills, Mill street, Herkimer, wholesale and retail dealer of flour, feed, ec. Also had branch stores at Newport and Poland, N. Y. According to the old letter he married Laura Brown or a similar name, which was very difficult to make out.

2. Aaron.

3. Willard.

4. Laurence F. or Florence F. who married a Cristman .

5. Fannie E. who married Josiah Mock.

6. Lewis.

CHAPTER XIV

Lieutenant Adam F. Helmer in the Revolution. The Revolutionary Scout

Adam F. Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born in 1754 at German Flatts He died in April, 1830 at Brutus, Cayuga county, N. Y. He married February 27, 1776 Anna Bellinger (daughter of Peter Bellinger) born about 1757. She died January 25, 1841 at Brutus, Cayuga county, N. Y.

Adam F. Helmer was sometimes called Adam or Johan Adam. He was a Lieutenant in a Company of Rangers (Scouts) commanded by Captain John Breadbake (Bigbread). He lived in the vicinity of Fort Dayton at a time when the country was constantly kept in a state of alarm by the Indians. The pension record of his widow Anna Bellinger soon to be published in the Enterprise and News shows many interesting events happening during the Revolution. The pension record consists of seventy pages. It shows the many difficulties encountered by those applying for pensions. Those serving in the New York State Militia had great difficulty in establishing their claims for

pensions as they were purely State organizations. If the claimant had served in the New York Line of Continental Troops, he had less difficulty in proving his service, being under the direction of Continental authorities and not under the control of the State.

Church Records Lost

The pension application of the widow consists of her own affidavit and sixteen other affidavits in support of her application. She stated that her husbands' commission had been lost or destroyed so that it could not be produced. She also said that owing to the alarm and state of the times during the war, that the church records were put together into a chest or box, which was buried in the ground to keep it away from the enemy. The chest and all its contents became wet and entirely destroyed so that all record of her marriage had been lost, and that she was unable to produce evidence of her marriage. Years later the record of her marriage was found in a church record. It is perhaps because this chest containing the church records was destroyed that there are now so many missing records.

Brant's Raid on Herkimer and the

Mohawk Valley in 1778.

In a former chapter it was stated that Adam F. Helmer was one of four scouts sent out from German Flatts about the middle of September, 1778 to learn the intentions of Brant who was at Unadilla preparing to make an attack upon the Mohawk valley. In the Governor Clinton Papers it is stated that nine scouts were sent out at that time and that Helmer was the only one who escaped to give the alarm.

The party of scouts met the enemy

near what is now Edmeston in Otsego county. From this place Helmer fled through the forest a distance of nearly thirty miles. Just before sunset Helmer reached the settlement of German Flatts to give the warning that Brant and his Indians were about to make an attack.

One account of this warning was related by an old lady Mrs. Catherine Myers, who at that time was a girl of ten years. She told of the appearance of the courageous scout when he gave the alarm—his clothing torn to tatters, eyes blood-shot, and bleeding from the effects of the brambles and bushes through which he had forced his headlong flight. He his hands, face and limbs lacerated halted long enough to shout "Flee for your lives! The enemy are not an hour behind" and hurried on to the next house.

According to the Governor Clinton Papers ninety-nine families were rendered homeless, having lost their houses, barns and most of their belongings. In addition fifteen other families living at a distance from Fort Dayton were obliged to leave their homes. In all 698 persons were made homeless the night of September 17, 1778. Of these 376 were children less than 16 years of age.

The inhabitants barely had time to reach the fort before the attack. Thanks to the warning of the courageous scout Adam F. Helmer only two persons lost their lives.

In the "Public Papers of George Clinton, First Governor of New York" under date of November 28, 1778 is published a list entitled "The Sufferers of German Flatts."

This list comprised one hundred and fourteen families of German Flatts and vicinity that had suffered in the destruction of September 17, 1778.

Eighty-one of these families lost everything. All their houses, barns, furniture, clothing, food, grain, cattle and everything had either been burned, destroyed or carried away. They were destitute. All of these families were furnished food by an act of the State Legislature. Each person over 16 years of age was allowed one pound of bread and one pound of beef per day. Each child under 16 years of age was allowed one-half pound of bread and one-half pound of beef per day.

Thirteen other families had lost their houses and barns but had some grain left and were put on half allowance.

Five other families had previously left the German Flatts on account of the fear of Indian and Tory raids. Their houses, barns and most of their belongings had been destroyed.

In addition fifteen other families whose homes were not destroyed but were obliged to leave, were put on half allowance.

This list was signed by the principal officers and inhabitants of the German Flatts:

Col. Peter Bellinger, Lieut. Col. Frederick Bellinger, Capt. Henry Herder, Justice William Petri, Capt. Frederick Gettman, Lieut. Adam Helmer and Frederick Franck.

Another record states that 63 houses, 59 barns, 3 grist mills, and 2 saw mills with all their contents were burned and that 235 horses, 229 cattle, 269 sheep and 93 oxen had been killed or driven away. What terrible sufferings they endured!

There are many descendants of the Mohawk Valley whose ancestors were saved from a midnight massacre thru the courage of Adam F. Helmer, the Revolutionary scout. The destiny of the entire settlement would have

been different had that warning not been given.

Revolutionary Service

The affidavits accompanying the pension application of his widow show that he had several periods of enlistment. In the early part of the year 1777 he entered service as a Lieutenant and served for a period of nine months. Again in the winter or spring of 1778 he entered the service as a Lieutenant and served nine months or until about January 1, 1779.

Carried Messages to Fort Stanwix

In an affidavit furnished by Andrew Piper accompanying the pension application of the widow of Adam F. Helmer mention is made of the three scouts who were sent out the night of the 5th of August, 1777, by General Herkimer with a message to Colonel Willett at Fort Stanwix. The three scouts were Adam Helmer, Marks Demuth and Handyfoot Folts. The name "Handyfoot" was probably a nickname of Han Yost Folts. These scouts carried the message to Colonel Willett that General Herkimer was marching to the relief of Fort Stanwix with a force of 800 men. The force at Fort Stanwix was about 600, commanded by Colonels Willett and Ganesvoort.

St. Leger had been joined by Sir John Johnson and Colonel John Butler, with their Loyalist followers and a force of Indian warriors led by Joseph Brant. With an army of 1,700 St. Leger laid siege to Fort Stanwix and the garrison was in grave danger.

There has been some controversy whether Adam F. Helmer participated in the Battle of Oriskany. An article appeared in the *Rome, N. Y. "Sentinel"* about two years ago in regard to an affidavit furnished by Andrew Piper, a Revolutionary pension-

er, in support of the application for pension of the widow of Adam F. Helmer, as follows:

"Piper testifies to an impossibility when he has Adam Helmer in action at Oriskany, for the evidence shows him indisputably to have been despatched by Herkimer the night of the 5th, to have arrived at the fort six miles west of the battlefield on the 6th before the battle was much more than fairly joined and to have remained there until midnight of the 7th."

There is ample proof that Adam Helmer was at the Battle of Oriskany.

The affidavit of Andrew Piper states "That the company of Rangers and Militia in which this deponent (Piper) and the said Adam served were both engaged in the Oriskany Battle when this deponent recollects distinctly seeing the said Adam Helmer in the ranks."

An affidavit of another pensioner, Peter Flagg, states that "said Adam Helmer was not in the service of the said Battle with General Herkimer's men, yet he accompanied Col. Willett and his men from Fort Stanwix and was in the said Battle and attack upon the enemy with Col. Willett as the deponent has always been informed and believed and still believes."

An affidavit of a third pensioner, Peter Fox, states that "he (Helmer) sallied forth with Willett and his men into the Indian camp. They broke them up; took all from them, ammunition and everything that was worth carrying away and returned to the fort without losing a man."

A letter written by A. Mann, Jr. of Frankfort, N. Y., February 1839, to the Commissioner of Pensions, says "Both tradition and testimony concur that as a Lieutenant he (Adam F. Helmer) went on the authority of

Gen. Herkimer from the German Flatts to carry a message through the ranks of St. Leger's and Johnson's army to Fort Stanwix while it was besieged before the Battle of Oriskany to Col. Willett and succeeded in reaching the fort from which he (Helmer) sallied forth with Willett's men to the rescue of Herkimer's forces which had fallen into an ambushade."

Here are three affidavits and one letter all stating that Adam F. Helmer, after carrying messages from General Herkimer to Colonels Gansevoort and Willett at Fort Stanwix, sallied forth with Colonel Willett's force which attacked the rear of the enemy, putting them to flight. While he was not with General Herkimer's force at the beginning of the battle he was with Col. Willett's force in attacking the enemy from the rear.

The Three Scouts, Capt. Hans Marcus Demuth, Lt. Adam F. Helmer and Han Yost Folts

In many affidavits accompanying the pension application of Anna Belinger, widow of Adam F. Helmer, we find testimonials as to his character and integrity, that he was always among the foremost in resisting and pursuing the enemy and a leader when there was danger. Three times his house and all his belongings were burned by the enemy.

The three scouts sent out by Gen. Herkimer on the night of August 5, 1777 were Captain Hans Marcus Demuth, Lieutenant Adam F. Helmer and Han Yost Folts. Their names should go down in American history as three of the greatest Indian fighters of all time. These three scouts from their childhood had known the terror of Indian warfare. Many of their families and friends had been killed or taken captive in

Indian attacks. No wonder they fought with such vengeance.

The pension record states that Helmer was compelled to wade the river, putting the messages in his hat to keep them dry. At other times the pension record shows several battles with the Indians. In one of these battles Helmer shot an Indian, breaking his leg, but discovered the Indian still intended to shoot him. As the Indian was fixing his gun to shoot, Helmer sprang upon the Indian and attempted to take the gun away. Unable to do this Helmer grabbed the Indian's tomahawk and killed him.

Captain Hans Marcus Demuth was badly wounded in the Revolution.

Han Yost Folts, the third scout, had a hand to hand fight with five Indian chiefs waist deep in the water of the West Canada creek on July 9, 1779. These chiefs had attended a council at Johnson Hall and had left in great rage. On their return trip to Canada, they encountered Folts. In the terrific hand to hand fighting Folts killed the five Indian chiefs, but was himself badly wounded. The friends and relatives of Folts fished the five bodies from the creek and presented Folts with all the trophies borne by the chiefs.

Adam F. Helmer and his three brothers were soldiers in the Revolution. One brother Captain Frederick F. Helmer was killed at the Battle of Oriskany. Another brother Lieutenant George F. Helmer was wounded in that Battle. A third brother Philip F. Helmer was also a soldier. Captain Frederick F. Helmer had two sons who were soldiers in the Revolution. They were Frederick F. Jr. and John F., the latter enlisting at the age of sixteen years and serving two and one half years in the

Revolution Philip F. Helmer also has a son George P. who was less than fifteen years of age at the close of the Revolution, but true to the traditions of his family, he had also been a soldier.

Family of Adam F. Helmer

According to the Census of 1790 Adam F. Helmer lived in the Town of German Flatts. Later for a short time he lived in the Town of Warren, Herkimer county. This section is also known as Hendricktown. Prior to 1812 he had moved with some of his family to Brutus, Cayuga county, N. Y. Two of his daughters had married and remained in Herkimer county, but several of his children were married at Brutus.

Adam F. Helmer and his wife Anna Bellinger were the parents of ten children as follows:

1. Johann Frederick (known as Frederick) born February 6, 1777. Sponsors Captain Frederick F. Helmer and Elizabeth Dygert, his second wife.

2. Anna Margaretha (known as Margaret) born September 9, 1778. Sponsors George Smidt (Smith) and Anna Maria, his wife.

3. Anna born October 3, 1781. Sponsors Andreas Grahe (Andrew Gray) and Anna Fox.

4. Johann Adam (known as Adam) born about 1783.

5. Peter born July 25, 1786. Sponsors Johannes Joh: Schuemacher and Anna Elizabeth Fr: Fox, his wife.

6. Anna Elizabeth (known as Elizabeth) born July 30, 1788. Sponsors Peter Joh: Bellinger and Elizabeth Franck, wife of Timothy Franck.

7. Catharine, born October 14, 1790. Sponsors Peter Staring and Maria Bellinger.

8. David, born January 7, 1793.

Sponsors Johann Frederick Bellinger and Magdalena, his wife.

9. Maria Barbara, born about 1795.

10. Eva born August 24, 1800. Sponsors Gradus Bohlson and Elizabeth, his wife.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born September 9, 1778. She married George Passage of the Town of Warren, Herkimer County. Both are buried in the North Columbia Cemetery, Herkimer county.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Henry, born Jan. 2, 1806. Sponsors Henry Passage and Anna Helmer his wife.

2. Eva, born May 7, 1809. Sponsors Peter H. Eckler and Eva Helmer.

3. Peter born January 12, 1812.

Anna Helmer

Anna Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born October 3, 1781. She married Henry Passage of Hendrickstown and Warren, Herkimer county,

They were the parents of three children:

1. Anna born June 4, 1803. Sponsors Frederick Fox and Sophia his wife, of German Flatts.

2. Joseph, born February 10, 1808. Sponsors Henry Grim and Elizabeth, his wife.

3. Maria, born Oct. 16, 1810. Sponsors Andreas (Andrew) Meyer and Catharine, his wife.

Peter Helmer

Peter Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born July 25, 1786. He moved with his parents before 1812 to the Town of Brutus, Cayuga County, N. Y.

On January 14, 1843 Peter Helmer was living at Weedsport in the Town of Brutus. At that time he wrote to Mr. Giles F. Yates in regard to his mother's pension application.

No record of his family.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born July 30, 1788. She married James Moores.

No record of children.

Catharine Helmer

Catharine Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born October 14, 1790. She married John Hill (Hills or Hiltz).

No record of children.

David Helmer

David Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born January 7, 1793. He married January 23, 1816, Catharine Fox, daughter of Peter Fox. David Helmer and his family lived at Brutus, Cayuga County, N. Y.

David Helmer and his wife Catharine Fox were the parents of two children, both born at Brutus.

1. Anna born August 12, 1817.

2. Hans Adam, born July 2 (year not legible).

Maria Barbara Helmer

Maria Barbara Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born about 1795. She had probably died before 1837 as she was not mentioned in the pension application of her mother. She married Paul H. Grim and lived at Brutus, Cayuga county, N. Y.

Maria Barbara Helmer and husband Paul H. Grim (Crim) were the parents of eight children born at Brutus and all baptized at the Herkimer Reformed church. They were:

1. Maria Margaret born July 2,

1810. Sponsors William Helmer and Elizabeth, his wife.

2. Daniel, born January 5, 1812. Sponsors Adam F. Helmer and Anna Bellinger, his wife.

3. Edwin, born December 10, 1812. Sponsors, parents.

4. Angelina, born December 7, 1813. Sponsors Magdalena Grim and Catharine, his wife.

5. Timothy, born November 14, 1815. Sponsors Henry Grim, Jr. and Catharine, his wife.

6. Anna, born October 16, 1817. Sponsors John Grim and Eva Helmer of Warren.

7. Lewis, born October 31, 1819. Sponsors Henry F. Helmer and Eva Myers, his wife.

8. Polly (Mary), born December 3, 1824. Sponsors parents.

Peter Passage

Peter Passage⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born January 12, 1812. He married Harriet Ward of Columbia, Herkimer county.

They were the parents of a son:

1. Ward, born May 28, 1846.

Ward Passage

Ward Passage⁶, Peter⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born May 28, 1846. He married Emma Coon.

They were the parents of a son:

1. Albert J. born Jan. 11, 1879.

It is earnestly hoped that descendants of this family especially the Brutus, Cayuga county line will prepare additional data in order that the family of Adam F. Helmer may be completed.

CHAPTER XV.

John F. Helmer in the Revolution

John F. Helmer⁴, Captain Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born

September 3, 1765. He died at Herkimer November 26, 1829. He married on Easter Sunday, 1797, Margaret Munterbach, daughter of John Munterbach and his wife Elizabeth. Margaret Munterbach was born about 1780 and died after 1855 at Mandana, Onondaga County, N. Y. and is buried in the Owasco cemetery, Cayuga county, N. Y. John F. Helmer is buried in the Oak Hill cemetery at Herkimer.

John F. Helmer's parents were Captain Frederick F. Helmer and his first wife Sabina or Edwina—. Sabina, his mother, died when John F. was about four or five years of age. His father married for his second wife Elizabeth Dygert. Captain Frederick F. was killed at the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777 when his son John F. was a little less than twelve years of age.

John F. Helmer was living with his step-mother Elizabeth Dygert on November 28, 1778, according to the list of refugees who lost all their belongings in the destruction of German Flatts September 17, 1778. Both his parents being dead, some time later he lived with a family by the name of Burch for several years.

At the age of sixteen years John F. Helmer enlisted at Albany, N. Y. in the Spring of 1782 as a private in Captain Peter B. Tearse's Company in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment, New York Line, and was discharged at Schenectady, N. Y., in the month of January, 1784.

The father of Margaret Munterbach was John Munterbach, a corporal in the Fourth Regiment, Tryon County Militia, during the Revolution. Prior to the Revolution he lived at what is now known as East Schuyler, then the extreme western white settlement in the state. Ac-

cording to data obtained from old deeds John Munterbach died between June 8, 1829 and April 8, 1831. His wife Elizabeth died after April 8, 1831.

Difficulty in Obtaining Pension

John F. Helmer made three applications for pension. He was allowed pension on his first application executed April 20, 1818, at which time he was fifty-three years of age. He received this pension for several years when it was stopped for the reason his service was performed in the State troops and not in the regular Continental line. The regiment to which he belonged at one time was a part of the regular line of Continental troops, but later became a portion of the State troops.

His second application for pension was made May 5, 1823 and his third application executed February 5, 1829 requested that his pension be restored and that all back pay under his former declaration be granted.

His widow Margaret Munterbach executed an application of pension June 13, 1855 and had great difficulty in proving her marriage for the reason the church records were lost. Her eldest son Frederick J. Helmer and several neighbors furnished affidavits to prove her marriage.

An interesting letter written by Charles Gray, County Judge of Herkimer county, is found with the pension application of Margaret Munterbach. Judge Gray sent two volumes of the records of the Herkimer Reformed Church by express to the Pension Office at Washington, D. C., in order to prove her marriage to John F. Helmer. She was granted a pension upon this application. She was then seventy-five years of age and lived at Herkimer.

One of the affidavits of her son Frederick J. Helmer aids materially in tracing the relationship of a half-brother of John F. Helmer. Without this affidavit this relationship would have been difficult to determine.

This affidavit refers to a certified copy of a deed filed with the pension papers. This deed was executed April 23, 1802 by John F. Helmer and his wife Peggy, and conveyed certain land to William Helmer.

In his affidavit Frederick J. Helmer states that William Helmer was his uncle and a half-brother of his father, John F. Helmer. These two half-brothers John F. and William F. were the sons of Captain Frederick F. Helmer who was twice married.

Some time after 1855 Margaret Munterbach, widow of John F. Helmer moved to Mandana, Onondaga County, N. Y., with her eldest son Frederick J. Helmer.

Children of John F. Helmer

John F. Helmer and his wife Margaret Munterbach were the parents of ten children:

1. Frederick J. born December 15, 1797. Sponsors Frederick Helmer and Margaret Munterbach.
2. A daughter who died young.
3. John born Jan. 6, 1802.
4. Anna born Feb. 7, 1803. Sponsors Joe. Munterbach and Anna Helmer.
5. William J. born Nov. 30, 1804. Sponsors William Helmer and Elizabeth Catharine Mayer (Myers), his wife.
6. Eva.
7. Margaret.
8. Lavina, born about 1812.
9. Elizabeth, born March 7, 1816. Sponsors Frederick Helmer and Apolonia Herder.
10. Catharine born about 1818.

Frederick J. Helmer

Frederick J. Helmer⁵, John⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born December 15, 1797. He married January 25, 1818, Elizabeth Folts, daughter of Jacob Folts. They moved from Herkimer to Mandana, Onondaga County, N. Y.

They had no children, but adopted their niece Catharine Barse, the daughter of Nathaniel Barse and Margaret Helmer, both deceased.

John Helmer

John Helmer⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born January 6, 1802. Died June 1, 1881. Married June 19, 1831 Nancy (Anna) Fulmer, daughter of Jacob C. Fulmer and Maria Catharine Rasbach. Nancy Fulmer was born December 2, 1806 at Shell's Bush, Herkimer County, N. Y. Died August 13, 1896. John Helmer and his wife Nancy Fulmer moved from Herkimer to Steuben in 1835 and in 1848 they moved to Boonville, Oneida Count, N. Y., where they are both buried. Maria Catharine Rasbach's ancestors were John³, Marx² and Johannes¹.

The Spirit of '76

The "Spirit of 776" was represented by the ancestors of Nancy Fulmer. Three generations of her ancestors were soldiers in the Revolution. They were John Rasbach, her grandfather, Lieut. Marx, her great grandfather, and Johannes, her great great grandfather, all soldiers in the Revolution. Three generations in the Revolution was a very unusual occurrence and is well worth recording. There are few records of such cases in the Revolution.

Nancy Fulmer's father, Jacob C. Fulmer was a soldier in the war of 1812. Her grandfather was Conrad

Fulmer, a soldier in the Revolution. Conrad Fulmer's wife was Elizabeth Hiltz, whose father Nicholas Hiltz was also a soldier in the Revolution.

Any descendant of John Helmer and his wife Nancy Fulmer is entitled to join either the Daughters of the American Revolution or the Sons of the American Revolution upon any of the eight following ancestors: Captain Frederick F. Helmer, John F. Helmer, John Munterbach, Johannes Rasbach, Lieut. Marx Rasbach, John Rasbach, Conrad Fulmer and Nicholas Hiltz.

Children of John Helmer

John Helmer and his wife Nancy Fulmer were the parents of ten children:

1. William Jacob, born April 19, 1832. Sponsors Marcus Schell and Elizabeth Fulmer, his wife.

2. Margaret Catharine, born January 10, 1834. Sponsors Aaron Fulmer and Margaret Spohn, his wife. Margaret Catharine Helmer, never married. Died June 23, 1918 at Boonville, N. Y.

3. James Henry, born August 16, 1836. Sponsors John M. Rasbach and Elizabeth Helmer, unmarried. James Henry never married. Died February 11, 1856.

4. David Alonzo born August 17, 1838.

5. Aaron Frederick, born December 17, 1840, at Steuben, N. Y. Baptized at Herkimer, November 6, 1841. Died April 17, 1856. Never married.

6. Josiah (twin) born July 13, 1843.

7. Sophia (twin) born July 13, 1843.

8. Eli, born July 24, 1846, at Steuben, N. Y.

9. Mary Elizabeth born February 5, 1849 born at Boonville, N. Y.

10. Fanny Lavina born August 19, 1852.

William J. Helmer

William J. Helmer⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born November 30, 1804. Married January 3, 1830 Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Adam Smith and his wife Margaret Folts. William J. Helmer and his family lived near Moravia, Cayuga county, N. Y.

They were parents of four children, possibly more.

1. Henry born Sept. 24, 1830. Sponsors Henry Hyser and Sally——, his wife.

2. Margaret, born Nov. 6, 1839. Sponsors, James Forbes and Marie, his wife.

3. Mary Elizabeth born Sept. 9, 1840, sponsors Adam Smith and Margaret, his wife, uncle and aunt. Mary Elizabeth Helmer married a man named Hiser.

4. William.

Eva Helmer

Eva Helmer⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Adam Hiltz.

They were the parents of five children:

1. Permilia born March 17, 1832. Sponsors Frederick J. Helmer and Elizabeth Folts, his wife.

2. Margaret born Sept. 7, 1833. Sponsors Thomas Hiltz and Edwina Helmer.

3. Melissa, born Sept. 12, 1835. Sponsors Joseph Hiltz and Elizabeth Helmer.

4. Mason.

5. Lavina, lived with a family named Cobbs. She married a man named Steele and lived at Watertown, N. Y.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, mar-

died July 3, 1828, Nathaniel Barse. Both Margaret Helmer and her husband Nathaniel Barse died when their children were quite young.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Rudolph born Feb. 16, 1829. Sponsors Adam R. Barse and Maria, his wife.

2. John Frederick, born Sept. 25, 1830. Sponsors Frederick J. Helmer and Elizabeth Folts, his wife.

3. Lavina Margaret, born May 1, 1832. Sponsors Lavina Helmer and Charles Barse, unmarried.

4. Catherine (Kate) born Nov. 28, 1834. Sponsors Frederick J. Helmer and Elizabeth Folts his wife. Catharine Barse's parents died while she was quite young and she was adopted by her uncle and aunt Frederick J. Helmer and Elizabeth Folts, his wife, who had no children of their own. They lived at Mandana, Onondaga County, N. Y.

Lavina Helmer

Lavina Helmer⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born about 1812. She was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church on September 29, 1832 at the age of 20 years. She married William Baldee and lived near Columbia, Herkimer county.

They were the parents of two daughters:

1. Nancy who married Philip Spohn.

2. Mary who married Jeremiah Spohn.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth Helmer⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born March 7, 1816. She married Randolph Harris and lived at New-
port, N. Y.

They were the parents of seven

children, among them being:

1. Gus.

2. Mary, who married a man named Griswold.

3. Benjamin.

Catharine Helmer

Catharine Helmer⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born about 1818. She was confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church on September 28, 1833 at the age of 15 years. She married Emanuel Van Slyke and lived at Clinton, Oneida County, N. Y.

They were the parents of one daughter and four sons, among them being:

1. Ellen who kept house for her father after the death of her mother.

2. John.

William J. Helmer

William J. Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born April 19, 1832. He died March 6, 1905. He married Margaret Lucinda Schell, the daughter of Mark Schell and granddaughter of John Schell. Margaret Lucinda Schell died in November, 1917. They moved to Moravia, Cayuga county, N. Y.

They were the parents of two children:

1. William.

2. Ida.

David A. Helmer

David A. Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born August 17, 1838. Died at Herkimer November 16, 1905. He married March 19, 1867 Fanny E. Edick, daughter of Jacob Edick and Almira Young. Fanny E. Edick was born November 5, 1843 and died at Mohawk, N. Y. August 31, 1927. They lived at Moravia, Cayuga county, N. Y. several years.

Fanny Edick, widow of David A. Helmer, married (2nd) Philip H. Spohn October 20, 1908 and lived at Columbia, Herkimer county. No children by her second marriage.

David A. Helmer and his wife Fanny E. Edick were the parents of eight children:

1. John Philo born in Sempronius, Cayuga county.

2. Clinton Henry, born in Kelloggs-ville, Cayuga county and died at the age of ten years at Moravia, Cayuga county.

3. Rhoda Nancy, born in Columbia, Herkimer county. ?

4. Eli Harvey born in Moravia, Cayuga county.

5. Catharine Ann born in Venice, Cayuga county.

6. Ally May born in Venice, Cayuga county.

7. Hattie Fanny born in Moravia, Cayuga county.

8. Warren David, born in German Flatts, Herkimer county.

Josiah Helmer

Josiah Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born at Steuben, N. Y. July 13, 1843. He had a twin sister Sophia. He died May 29, 1893. He married Dec. 9, 1868 Flora Augusta Grant, born Oct. 2, 1844, died October 6, 1875, daughter of Nelson Grant and Philora Celestine Munn.

Josiah Helmer enlisted in the Civil War August 29, 1862, at Boonville, to serve for three years. He was mustered in as private in Co. D. 146th New York Regiment October 10, 1862. Promoted to Corporal. He was at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. He was wounded and captured in action May 5, 1864 at the Battle of the Wilderness in Virginia. With other Union soldiers he was confined in Florence Prison for seven months.

He was mustered out of service May 30, 1865, at Annapolis, Maryland.

After the Civil War he became a farmer near Boonville. After the death of his wife he removed to Boonville and carried passengers from there to Moose River and Old Forge and the north woods, during the time when there was no travel except by buckboard and horseback. He kept several saddle horses for ladies and sick people who went to the Adirondacks for their health. Later he became a successful guide and while acting in this capacity was drowned in Fourth Lake, Fulton Chain of Lakes, May 29, 1893.

Josiah Helmer and his wife Flora Grant were the parents of two children:

1. Nellie.

2. Francis who was accidentally shot and died December 14, 1892, at the age of 17 years.

Sophia Helmer

Sophia Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born at Steuben, N. Y., July 13, 1843. Now in her eighty-eighth year she is living with her daughter at Sloansville, Schoharie county, N. Y. She married April 7, 1869, Edward Manning, born June 10, 1844, who died July 3, 1895.

Sophia Helmer and her husband Edward Manning were the parents of two daughters:

1. Estella May.

2. Martha Ella.

Eli Helmer

Eli Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born at Steuben, N. Y., July 24, 1846. He died July 27, 1907 at Savannah, Georgia, and is buried at Boonville, N. Y. He married Eliza-



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE P. NOBLE OF BOONVILLE, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Noble celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary June 2nd, 1930 at Boonville at which time the above likeness was published in the Boonville Herald. Mrs. Noble was Mary Elizabeth Helmer, a granddaughter of John F. Helmer and a

great granddaughter of Capt. Frederick F. Helmer killed at Oriskany. Mr. Noble is 86 and his wife is 82. She is a real granddaughter of the Revolution. Cut furnished through courtesy of Boonville Herald.

beth Putnam, born 1859, died May 17, 1894.

They were the parents of one son:
1. Walter.

Mary Elizabeth Helmer --

Mary Elizabeth Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born at Boonville, N. Y. February 5, 1849. She married June 2, 1880 George Payne Noble, born June 2, 1845. They are now living at Boonville, N. Y.

Mary Elizabeth Helmer and her

husband George P. Noble celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Boonville on June 2, 1930. Their entire married life of fifty-one years has been spent at Boonville in the same house to which she came as a bride. Eight of her ancestors were soldiers in the Revolutionary war.

June 2nd is an important date in the Noble family. In addition to its being their wedding anniversary Mr. Noble was 86 years of age on that date. Their only son was born on

the same eventful day and it is also his wedding anniversary.

George P. Noble's grandfather, Reuben Noble and his family came from Massachusetts to Boonville in 1809 and were among its first settlers.

Mr. Noble's parents were Chauncey Noble and Angeline Payne who in 1840 went to Illinois in a covered wagon. In 1844 they returned to New York State and located at Depauville, Jefferson county, where Mr. Noble was born.

In 1858 Mr. Noble with his parents came to Boonville. In 1859 his father built the house in which Mr. and Mrs. Noble are now living. Mr. Noble has lived in this house for sixty-two years.

Mr. Noble is a veteran of the Civil War. He enlisted and served in Co. E. of the Tenth New York Heavy Artillery. He was mustered out at Petersburg, Va. and received his discharge with his regiment at Sacketts Harbor, N. Y., on June 7, 1865. He was a member of Wheelock Post No. 97, G. A. R., serving as its Commander for several years. He was president of the village of Boonville a number of terms. He is a member of Boonville Lodge, No. 165, F. & A. M.

Mr. Noble's ancestors were all from New England. On the Noble side he can trace back to Deacon Samuel Chapin who came to America before 1642 and was one of the founders of Springfield, Mass. On the Payne side he traces back to Elder William Brewster and his wife Mary who came over on the Mayflower and landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. Several of his ancestors fought in the Revolution.

Mary Elizabeth Helmer and her husband George P. Noble are the parents of four children:

1. Anna Dell.
2. Mina Estella, a teacher in the Boonville, N. Y. high school.
3. Georgia Pearl, a teacher in the Albany, N. Y. high school.
4. Chauncey H.

Fanny Lavina Helmer

Fanny Lavina Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born August 19, 1852. Died August 29, 1884. Married about 1871 George Seiter, born March 24, 1845, died September 2, 1923. They lived at Boonville and are buried in the cemetery there.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Anna.
2. George.
3. John.
4. Rose.

Melissa Hilts

Melissa Hilts⁶, Eva Helmer⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born September 12, 1835, at Herkimer. Married Job Meeker and lived at Boonville, N. Y.

They were the parents of four children:

1. George.
2. Charles.
3. Polly.
4. Flora.

William Helmer

William Helmer⁷, William J.⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Mary Jane Bissel.

They had no children.

Ida Helmer

Ida Helmer⁷, William J.⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Emmory Reed.

They are the parents of three sons, among them being:

1. Emmory, Jr.

John P. Helmer

John P. Helmer⁷, David A.⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Mary Jane Bissell, widow of William Helmer, who was the son of William J. Helmer and Margaret Lucinda Schell.

They are the parents of two daughters:

1. Anna Elizabeth who died young.
2. Irene Frances who married Seth Cuykendall and is now living at Solvay, Onondaga County, N. Y.

Rhoda N. Helmer

Rhoda N. Helmer⁷, David A.⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Byron A. Cristman and is now living at Mohawk, Herkimer county, N. Y.

They are the parents of one daughter:

1. Pearl Mae who married Leroy Wilbur Holmes.

Eli H. Helmer

Eli H. Helmer⁷, David A.⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Lulu Moyer and is now living at Mohawk, N. Y.

They are the parents of three children:

1. Marion Elizabeth who married Ellis Zimmerman.
2. George W. who married Ethel Ruth Beeching.
3. Lewis Henry.

Catharine A. Helmer

Catharine A. Helmer⁷, David A.⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Howard Dingman and lived at Syracuse, N. Y.

They were the parents of seven children:

1. Ray H.

2. Glen Howard.

3. Byron Jerry, who died young.

4. Myrtle, who died young.

5. Jerry.

6. Robert Murle.

7. Franklin B.

Ally M. Helmer

Ally M. Helmer⁷, David A.⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Everett J. Harter. They are now living at Jordanville, Herkimer county, N. Y.

They are the parents of two sons:

1. Harold Norman, who married Mabel Filkins, daughter of Berton Filkins and granddaughter of Frank Filkins and his wife Elizabeth. Her great grandfather John Filkins married Delina Ecker, born May 4, 1815. Delina Ecker otherwise known as "Grandma" Filkins died December 4, 1928, at the advanced age of 113 years and 7 months at the home of her son at Jordanville, N. Y. This family was noted for its longevity. Delina Ecker's parents were William Ecker and Susanna Harwick. William Ecker was born July 11, 1782, and died in 1879 at the age of 97 years. William Ecker's parents were Johannes Ecker, born in 1734 and his wife Anna E. Dockstader who were married May 4, 1763.

2. Warren Leroy, who married Alta Evelyn Parker at Missoula, Montana. They are now living at Spokane, Washington.

Hattie F. Helmer

Hattie F. Helmer⁷, David A.⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Fred D. Worden and lives at Mohawk, N. Y.

They are the parents of two daughters:

1. Mabel Elizabeth, who married Lloyd Boepple.
2. Frances Mary, who married Harry Schwartz.

Warren D. Helmer

Warren D. Helmer⁷, David A.⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married (1st) Satie Reed and (2nd) Constance Mary Case. Lived at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Children by the first marriage:

1. Lyna Mae.
2. Arbutus Mary.

Nellie Helmer

Nellie Helmer⁷, Josiah⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Jarvis D. Curtiss. Now living at Richland, Oswego County, N. Y.

They are the parents of a daughter:

1. Frances Sylvia, who married Anthony Eugene Vunk, now living at Johnstown, N. Y.

Estella M. Manning

Estella M. Manning⁷, Sophia Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born at Boonville, N. Y. She married (1st) January 12, 1898 Albert B. Vunk, who died October 1, 1900. They lived at Charleston, Montgomery County, N. Y. She married (2nd) March 31, 1913, James Peterson, who died May 7, 1915. She married (3rd) Frank Burch and they are now living at Sloansville, Schoharie County, N. Y.

Children by the first marriage:

1. Ada Mae, who married Leland Everson, now living near Charleston, N. Y.
2. Anthony Eugene, who married Frances Sylvia Curtiss, now living at Johnstown, N. Y.

Martha E. Manning

Martha E. Manning⁷, Sophia Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Charles

Fero and is now living near Rural Grove, Montgomery County, N. Y.

No children.

Walter Helmer

Walter Helmer⁷, Eli⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Pearl Jackson who died October 27, 1907 at Boonville, N. Y.

They were the parents of one son:

1. Lyle.

Anna Dell Noble

Anna Dell Noble⁷, Mary Elizabeth Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Pascoe W. Williams, son of John G. Williams and his wife Anne A. Williams of Steuben, Oneida County, N. Y. They are now living at Albany, N. Y.

They are the parents of three children:

1. Dorothy Louise, who was graduated from Russell Sage College at Troy, N. Y., in the class of 1929.
2. Noble Stanton, who was graduated with the degree of civil engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, N. Y. in the class of 1929.
3. Marjorie Frances who will be graduated from the Milne High School at Albany, N. Y., in June, 1930 and who will enter Russell Sage College at Troy, N. Y. next September.

Chauncey H. Noble

Chauncey H. Noble⁷, Mary Elizabeth Helmer⁶, John⁵, John F.⁴, Frederick F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Many Oliver Van Allen, daughter of Rev. Harry J. Van Allen and his wife Jessie Ada Oliver.

Chauncey H. Noble is a veteran of the World War. He enlisted at Buf-

falo, N. Y., in the 102nd Engineers. He went with his regiment to the Mexican border in 1916. He served in France with his regiment for ten months, returning to the United States in 1919.

Chauncey H. Noble and his wife Mary Oliver Van Allen are the parents of one son:

1. Allen George.

CHAPTER XVI

John F. Helmer in the Revolution First Application for Pension

State of New York
Herkimer County

On this twentieth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen before me, David Holt, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared John F. Helmer aged fifty-three years, resident in the Town of Herkimer, in the County and State aforesaid to me well known, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late Act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War."

That the said John enlisted as a private soldier at Albany in the State of New York in the Spring of the year seventeen hundred and eighty-two, in Captain Tearne's Company of Infantry in the Regiment commanded by Col. Marinus Willett, in the New York Line, for the term of nine months.

That previous to the termination of the said nine months he the said John reenlisted in the same company for three years.

That he continued to serve in said company and regiment on the continental establishment and against the common enemy from his first enlistment until after the close of the Revolutionary War, to wit, until the month of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-four, when he was honorably discharged at Schenectady, in the State aforesaid.

That his discharge was signed by Col. Willett and by Pliny Moore, as Adjutant.

That he, the said John, about the year 1810 entrusted his said discharge with one William Dexter, who is now deceased, and that since the death of said Dexter, the said John hath endeavored in vain to discover what hath been done with said discharge or whether the same be now in existence.

That he, the said John, was in several skirmishes, but in no important battle with the enemy.

That he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support.

And that he has no other evidence now in his possession of his services than this, his own declaration and the affidavit of Peter W. Dygert, which is hereunto annexed, and the said John hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension heretofore allowed him by the laws of the United States.

John F. Helmer.

Sworn to and declared before
me the day and year aforesaid.

David Holt.

Second Application for Pension

State of New York
Herkimer County

On this 5th day of May, 1823, personally appeared in Open Court, to wit, a Court of Common Pleas, said

court being a Court of Record in and for the County of Herkimer thus constituted by the laws and statutes of the State of New York, John F. Helmer, aged fifty-eight years, resident in the Town of Herkimer in the County aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows:—that I, the said John F. Helmer enlisted in Captain Peter Tearne's Company, commanded part of the time by Col. Marinus Willett in the New York line and part of the time by Col. Marinus Willett in the New York line and part of the time by Col. Van Schaick on the Continental Establishment for 3 years that he served his time faithfully and was then honourably discharged by Order of General Washington. And I do swear that the date of the original declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Act of Congress passed the 18th day of March, 1818 is1818, and the number I now have under the Act aforesaid is (The reason of my not stating the date and number to my certificate is, that the man that I left it with to collect my money due thereon, has lost or mislaid it and it cannot be found).

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March, 1818 and I have not since that time by gift or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18th day of March, 1818, and I have not nor has any person in trust for me

any property or securities or contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereunto annexed and by me subscribed.

Real property or estate I have none.

(Next follows a schedule of personal property).

And I do solemnly swear that I am by occupation a farmer, but not very healthy; that I have a wife forty-eight years and she is not very healthy, and I have no other way to support myself but by my own industry which only affords but a pitiful living and without some help from his country he will soon have to call on the Town for relief both for himself and family.

John F. Helmer.

Subscribed and sworn this 5th day of May, 1823, before me Henry Brown, First Judge of Court of Herkimer Common Pleas.

Third Application for Pension

State of New York
Herkimer County

On the 5th day of February, 1829, personally appeared in Open Court, to wit, a Court of Common Pleas, said Court being a Court of Record in and for the County of Herkimer, thus constituted by the laws and statutes of the State of New York, John F. Helmer aged sixty-four years, resident in the Town and County of Herkimer, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows:—that he the said John F. Helmer enlisted in the first part of the year 1778 in Captain P. B. Tearse's Company, commanded then by Lieut. Col. Marinus Willett who then was Lieut. Col.

under Ganesvoort, as this deponent was informed and verily believes was true in the New York Line on the Continental Establishment for three years. That he served out his time faithfully and was discharged in the fore part of the year 1781 in Schenectady by Order of General Washington.

And I do swear that the date of the original declaration, in order to obtain the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed the 18th day of March, 1818, is 1818, and the number I now have under the Act aforesaid is (the reason of my not stating the date and number to my Certificate is that the man that I left the Certificate with to collect the money due thereon, has lost or mislaid the same and it cannot be found).

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March, 1818. And that I have not since that time by gift, sale or delivery or in any manner whatsoever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March, 1818. And I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereunto annexed and by me subscribed.

I have no real estate either in possession, reversion or remainder wither in Law or Equity. I have no personal property. I have a wife near sixty years old, not healthy. Seven children. I am

very poor and needy and am not able to support my family without assistance from Government or by calling on my friends for support and I have no relatives that are able to support me. I made a former declaration to be restored on the 5th day of May, 1823 and the Honl. John C. Calhoun then Secretary of the United States, sent me a line that I was stricken from the Roll as pensioner on account that I belonged to Col. Willett's Regiment, who was a Militia Colonel, etc.

And this deponent prayed to be restored in consequence that the Honl. Secretary of War of the United States was at that time mistaken about Lieut. Col. Willett's being at the time I served in the Revolution a Militia Colonel, as he was not a Militia Colonel until after the Reduction of the Army in 1781, when the five Regiments of New York were reduced to two, as this deponent is informed and verily believes to be true, and further prays that if his Statement be correct that he may not only be restored from the date hereof but for all back pay up to the 5th day of May, 1823, when this deponent in compliance of the Act of 1820, made his declaration and schedule to be continued. This deponent further Saith that there has been no changes in his real or personal estate since the 13th March, 1818 except one Calf in his former schedule and that I sold for house rent.

John F. Helmer.

Sworn to before me this 5th Day of February, 1829.

John Mahon, one of the Judges of Herkimer Court of Common Pleas.

It is the Opinion of the Court that the above declarant did serve in the American Revolution as stated in the above declaration, and that the prop-

erty is nothing saving the bed and wearing apparel mentioned in his schedule.

Hiram Nolton,

John Mahon,

Augustus Beardslee

Judges of Herkimer

Common Pleas.

CHAPTER XVII.

Application for Pension of Margaret Munterbach, Widow of John F. Helmer

Herkimer County.

On this 13th day of June A. D. 1855, personally appeared before me, Ezra Graves, County Judge of County Court of the County of Herkimer and State of New York, the said court being a court of record, Margaret Helmer, of the Town of Herkimer, in the said County and State above mentioned, aged seventy-five years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed July 29th, 1848, granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War.

That she is the widow of John Helmer which was his baptismal name and by which he was known until after the war when there was another John Helmer, who came to live at Herkimer, when her said husband began to be designated by the addition of a middle letter F. as appears from receipts and other papers taken and left by him and now remaining in possession of the family and from whence until his death he was known by the name of John F. Helmer, and who was a soldier and served in the War of the Revolution and was a pensioner in his life time

under the Act of Congress passed the 18th day of March, 1818, at the rate of ninety-six dollars a year, as she is informed and believes.

That her said husband was such pensioner and drew said pension for the year 1818 and for several years afterwards, when the same was stopped and for the reason as she had been informed that his service was performed in the State troops and not in the regular Continental line.

That her said husband, as she always understood from him, served in the said War of the Revolution under a term of enlistment for nine months under Col. Willett and that after the close of said nine months term of enlistment he again enlisted into the service for the term of three years.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Helmer at Herkimer where he then resided, and where he died, on Easter day in year 1797 or 1798, and she cannot state in which year but has no doubt it was either one or the other, and she is quite positive that it was on Easter day or Pope so called, by the Revd. Mr. Wietinger, a Minister who came from below, from Fort Plain, or that neighborhood.

That her name before her marriage with the said John was Margaret Munterbach which was her maiden name and that her husband, the said John Helmer died at Herkimer aforesaid on the 26th day of November, A. D. 1829 and that she has remained a widow since his death and is now a widow.

That she has caused inquiry to be made for a record of her marriage with said John, but has not been able to find any, and she does not know that there is any such record either public or private and she believes there is none nor does she know of

any person now living who was present and saw her and the said John married.

And she further declares that she and the said John Helmer had together in all ten children, six of whom are still living and four dead and that the following is the order of their births, and their names respectively, to wit:—

1st. Frederick J. Helmer who was her first born and who was born about one year after their said marriage. 2nd a daughter who lived but a few hours after her birth and received neither baptism nor a name. 3rd. John Helmer. 4th. Anna Helmer. 5th. William Helmer. 6th. Eva Helmer. 7th. Margaret Helmer. 8th. Lavina Helmer. 9th. Elizabeth Helmer and 10th. Catharine Helmer, who was the youngest of her children.

And that all except the second born received the ordinance of baptism that all who received baptism except the first and third, to wit:—Frederick and John and also the seventh to wit:—Margaret, were baptized by the Revd. John P. Spinner who emigrated to this country from Germany and who became the settled Minister and Pastor of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church at Herkimer in the year 1801 and continued so to be for about forty years and during that entire period as such minister as she is informed kept a record of births, and of baptisms and marriages performed by him.

That the said Frederick J. her first born was baptized by the Revd. Mr. Pick and the said John, her 3d child, was baptized by the Revd. Mr. Dysslin who was known and whom she remembers by the name and designation of the "Schweitzer Pfarrer'r" which is the name in the German language and which as she is informed is Swiss Minister in the Eng-

lish language and that he was so called from the fact that he emigrated into this country from Switzerland and that both her said sons were so baptized prior to the coming and settlement of the said Revd. J. P. Spinner as such Minister and Pastor at Herkimer as aforesaid.

And that her said 7th child Margaret was baptized by the Revd. Mr. Grotz as she now thinks who was a Minister of the Gospel settled at Stone Arabia in the County of Montgomery.

her
Margaret x Helmer
mark

Witnesses:—

Ezra Graves.

**Affidavit of Frederick J. Helmer, a
Son, in Support of His Mother's
Pension Application**

June 13, 1855.

Frederick J. Helmer being duly sworn says that he was either fifty-five or fifty-six years of age in December, 1854, but that there being no reliable record of his age and there having always since his attaining the age of twenty-one years, been a question about his age he cannot state for certainty whether he was 55 or 56 in December, 1854 but he believes he was 56.

He further states that he always understood from his parents that he was their first born and that next to him there was born a daughter who lived but a few hours and died. That next to the said deceased sister who was second born, he had and still has a brother named John who was the third of his father and mother's children, and who is still living.

That the next being the fourth of the children was a sister named Anna.

That William, his brother, was the next, being the fifth, Eva the 6th,

Margaret 7th, Lavina 8th, Elizabeth 9th and Catharine 10th.

That Margaret Helmer, whose declaration is hereunto annexed and which he has heard is his mother and that John Helmer is his father.

(Signed) Frederick J. Helmer.

CHAPTER XVIII.

John F. Helmer in the Revolution

Second affidavit of Frederick J. Helmer, the son, to prove the marriage of his parents and his own age.

State of New York)
County of Herkimer)

Frederick J. Helmer of Herkimer in the said County of Herkimer being duly sworn says that he is son of John Helmer who was known as John F. Helmer in his life time and of Margaret Helmer, the widow of John, who is an applicant for a pension for the Revolutionary services of the said John, her husband. In respect to his age he now verily believes that he was born either in the year 1796 or 1797. When a minor he was apprenticed to George J. Hiltz.

And he further says that John F. Helmer and Peggy, his wife, named as grantors in the deed, a certified copy whereof is hereunto also annexed, are his father and mother and the identical John Helmer and Margaret Helmer, herein before mentioned, that Margaret and Peggy is the same name, and that his father John Helmer was married but once and never had any other wife than the mother of him.

He says he is well acquainted with the farm and premises described and annexed by the said deed and he remembers distinctly when a little boy his living with his father and moth-

er and the family on the said farm and from his childhood recollection of occurrences while living on said farm, he has no doubt that he and his father and the family were living on said farm at the time of the conveyance thereof by his father and mother to William Helmer, the grantee in the said deed mentioned, that the said William Helmer, the said grantee, was his uncle and a half brother of his father and that from the time of the purchase of said farm owned and lived on said farm until about twenty years ago when he sold it to Christopher C. Bellinger who now owns and lives on it and that the said William Helmer is now dead, having died several years ago, and he further says that he has always understood from his parents that he was born and lived on said farm until it was sold to his uncle William Helmer.

Frederick J. Helmer.

Subscribed and sworn to before me the 17th day of September, 1855.

David Rasbach,
Justice of Peace.

Affidavit of George J. Hilts in support of the pension application of Margaret Munterbach, widow of John F. Helmer, Sept. 17, 1855.

George J. Hilts of Herkimer says that he is seventy years old and is well acquainted with Frederick J. Helmer in the preceding annexed affidavit mentioned and that he has also been acquainted with John F. Helmer, his father, who is dead and with Margaret Helmer, his wife, and who is still living; that the said John and said Margaret for many years before his death and from his earliest recollections of them lived and cohabited together as man and wife and were believed so to be and that they raised a large family of child-

ren together, and that since the death of the said John, the said Margaret has not been again married and that she is now a widow; that the said Frederick J. Helmer, when a youth of about 13 years old was bound by himself and his father, the said John Helmer, to him as an apprentice to serve until he was 21 years old.

And he further says that he was acquainted with the said John F. Helmer and Margaret, his wife, when they lived on the farm and the land conveyed by them to William Helmer in and by deed, a copy of which is hereunto annexed and mentioned.

And he remembers that they lived on the said farm and that they sold the same to William Helmer, who was a brother of the said John, and that at the time of the sale to the said William they were living on the said farm and that they with their family had lived on the said farm for several years before the sale.

And he remembers that shortly after the sale of the said farm they moved on a farm at Germantown a few miles above the village of Herkimer where the said John had bought a farm and lived for some time.

(Signed) George J. Hilts.

Affidavit of George L. Harter in support of the pension application of Margaret Munterbach, widow of John F. Helmer.

State of New York)
County of Herkimer)

On this 13th day of August, A. D., 1855, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace in said County George L. Harter, resident of the Town of Herkimer in said County and State aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law, did depose and swear that he was seventy years old and was born and during his

whole life time lived in the said town and county of Herkimer, and that from his infancy until the death of John Helmer, he was well acquainted with John Helmer, who was the son of Frederick Helmer.

And who from the time that this deponent became acquainted with him until his death lived in the said Town of Herkimer or within a few miles of Herkimer where he died and was buried over twenty years ago; that the said John Helmer was formerly the owner of a farm about half a mile above the Village of Herkimer on which he and his family with whom this deponent has also been well acquainted were living in the years 1800, 1801, 1802 and 1803.

That he knows and remembers that the said John and his family were living on said farm at the time mentioned from the fact the said farm was in the immediate neighborhood and less than a quarter of a mile distant of the farm owned by Jacob G. Weber for whom this deponent worked at farming in the said years aforesaid; that he this deponent was hired to and labored for the said Jacob G. Weber for over three years during and in the said several years; that during the said time and prior thereto he was acquainted also with Margaret Helmer the wife of said John whose maiden name was Margaret Munterbach and during the said years aforesaid and for several years previous thereto the said John and the said Margaret lived together at the same place and on the said farm aforesaid as man and wife and were reputed so to be; and that they continued so to live and to be reputed until the death of the said John as aforesaid; and that they raised a large family of children and had several to the certain knowledge of this deponent during

the time he so lived with and labored for the said Jacob G. Weber.

That he remembers well the fact of their having children when he so worked for the said Weber and he particularly remembers that Frederick J. Helmer, who was the oldest of their children, was in the habit of coming into the field of the said Jacob G. Weber where he, this deponent, was plowing with a wheel plow and that this deponent placed and set him upon a bolster and plow beam between the wheels of the plow and there permitted him to ride; that the said Frederick J. was at that time a boy of sufficient age and strength to set and ride on the plow safe and without any help or assistance from this deponent.

That he cannot state in what particular year or years of the said period of his labor for the said Weber it was that the said Frederick J. used so to amuse himself by riding the plow, nor can he state how old the said Frederick J. then was, but judging from his age and ability so to hold on and ride he has no doubt he must at the time have been at least five or six years old; and judging from the age of the boy and the time of his so laboring for the said Weber and his acquaintance with the said Margaret Helmer and the said John Helmer at the time and previously he has no doubt the said Margaret and the said John began to live together and be reputed as man and wife prior to the year 1800; and he thinks as early as the year 1797 or 1798; and that since the death of the said John Helmer, the said Margaret has not again married; and that she is now a widow living with her son, the said Frederick J. Helmer who lives in the Town of Herkimer about a mile out of the Village

of Herkimer in the County and State aforesaid.

George L. Harter.

Subscribed and sworn to this 13th day of August, 1855.

Affidavit of John Harter in support of the pension application of Margaret Munterbach, widow of John F. Helmer.

State of New York)

County of Herkimer)

John Harter of Herkimer in said County and State aforesaid being duly sworn saith that he was born at Herkimer on the 21st day of November, 1787, and had during his whole life time lived in the said Town and County of Herkimer and from his infancy was acquainted with John F. Helmer, deceased, who was the husband of Margaret Helmer in the annexed declaration named,

That he was acquainted with the said John F. Helmer before he, the said John F. Helmer, was married and he continued to be well acquainted with him after his marriage and during his whole life and until his death which occurred at Herkimer over twenty years ago; and that he, this deponent, attended and assisted as a bearer at his funeral; that when he first became acquainted with the said Helmer he lived and owned a farm about half a mile above the village of Herkimer and which was in the immediate neighborhood where this deponent was born and then lived and was brought up; that the said John F. Helmer, so it was at the time reputed and said, was married to Margaret Munterbach, the said Margaret being now still living and a widow, when he, this deponent as he should now judge and recollects the time, was about ten years of age; that immediately after the reputed intermarriage of the said John with the said Margaret, she came to live

with the said John on his farm at Herkimer and that from then forward until the day of his death, he and the said Margaret continued to live and cohabitate together as man and wife and were reputed so to be, and that they reared a large family of children together.

That he is well acquainted with Frederick J. Helmer, the oldest child, and with John and William Helmer, sons of the said John and Margaret Helmer, who as he is informed are still living, and that he has also been acquainted with several of the daughters.

John Harter.

Subscribed and sworn to 15th day of August, A. D., 1855.

Affidavit of Charles Spinner, son of Rev. John Peter Spinner.

State of New York)

County of Herkimer)

Charles Spinner of Herkimer in said County of Herkimer being duly sworn says he is a son of John P. Spinner, deceased, who was a minister of the Gospel and who for over forty years officiated as pastor of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Churches of Herkimer and German Flatts, and as such minister from the years 1801 to 1848, he kept records of marriages, baptisms and burials.

That the said deponent is intimately acquainted with the handwriting of the said record of his deceased father, which said record is now in the care and custody of his mother and sister at the late family mansion of his deceased father; that he has this day examined the said record of baptisms and births and has found there in several entries the births of Anna and William Helmer.

Charles Spinner.

18th day of August, 1855.

Letter written by Charles Gray, Esq., relative to forwarding two vol-

umes of the Herkimer Reformed Church records to the Pension Office at Washington, D. C. Year 1855.

Mr. Chas. C. Tucker,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:—

I have forwarded this day by Express (American) the volume of the records of baptism, etc. of the Rev. J. P. Spinner, deceased, containing the baptisms of Anna Helmer and William Helmer, two of the children of John F. Helmer and Margaret, widow, in support of the widow's pension claim.

The record consists of two large volumes and the (Spinner) family were very reluctant about having them forwarded to Washington. It was only on my assurance that the volumes would be safely returned that they consented to their being sent.

You will therefore look for its receipt and when received exhibit it to the Department at the earliest practical moment and with as little delay as possible return to me by Express.

The family will not feel easy until the book is returned.

And as I consider important affidavits to establish the marriage before the year 1800, which is the fact we wish to establish.

Charles Gray.

CHAPTER XIV.

John G. Helmer in the Revolution

John G. Helmer⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born at Palatine Montgomery county, on either January 15th or February 15th, 1758. His pension record gives the latter date while the family Bible gives the first date a discrepancy of one month in the two records. His parents were Godfrid Helmer and his second wife Anna Margaret.....

John G. Helmer served as a private in the Revolutionary War. In his pension papers he refers to several periods of service. He entered the service in January, 1777, as a militia man. At that time he was a resident of the Town of Canajoharie, Tryon County, now Montgomery County. He was attached to Colonel

Cox's Regiment, Capt. William Fox, and went with that Regiment to Ticonderoga against the British and Indians until March 17, 1777, when he returned home.

Additional Names for the Oriskany Roster

In July, 1777, he went under the command of Capt. Peter Bowman, in Colonel Cox's Regiment, to Unadilla. He served at the Battle of Oriskany under General Herkimer on August 6, 1777. After assisting to remove the wounded to Herkimer, he returned to Oriskany to bury the dead. His brother-in-law Captain Peter Bowman and Lieutenant Campbell are mentioned as among those killed at Oriskany. Captain Peter Bowman (Bauman) was the first husband of Catharine Helmer, sister of John G. Helmer. He later served at Saratoga under Captain John Bowman, brother of Captain Peter Bowman killed at Oriskany. At another time he served in Captain Gray's Company in Colonel Gansevoort's Regiment of the New York Line of Continental troops.

In his pension application he also mentions that his brother was killed at the Battle of Oriskany, but does not give the name of this brother. He had one half-brother Leonhart and three brothers Godfrid, Jr., born January 31, 1760, Joseph (Joost) born February 8, 1762, and Henry born August 20, 1764. The brother he mentions as killed at the Battle of Oriskany must have been either Leonhart or Godfrid, Jr., as Joseph and Henry were both alive after the close of the Revolution. Or could it have been another brother killed in that battle of which we have no record?

John G. Helmer resided in Montgomery county until September, 1827,

and removed to Pike, then Allegany County now Wyoming county. He died August 5, 1837 and is buried at Theresa, Jefferson County, N. Y. His tombstone in the Old Cemetery reads "John G. Helmer died August 5, 1837, ae. 79 y.—A Revolutionary Patriot of '76."

John G. Helmer was one of a family of nine children. In his pension record he refers to his birth as February 15, 1758. The old family Bible gives the date of his birth as follows:

"1758, my second son was born the 15 of January (John G.) and was taken to the Holy Christening the 5th of March; the christening witnesses are these, Johann Helmer and Margaret Heltze."

Affidavit of Robert Flint

From the affidavit of Robert Flint born in March, 1757, accompanying the pension application of John G. Helmer, it will be seen that Robert Flint was not at the Battle of Oriskany, being unable to go on account of lameness. Robert Flint served at other times during the Revolution. He was born in Montgomery County and was a resident of Pike, Wyoming (formerly Allegany) County on September 28, 1832.

Children of John G. Helmer

John G. Helmer married Magdalena or Margaret Ehle about 1780 to 1785. Having no definite date of their marriage, this date is only approximate, being arrived at only from the dates of the birth of their children. Can anyone supply the exact date of their marriage? Magdalena Ehle was born about 1760. Her name appears in the record of the St. Johnsville Dutch Reformed Church as Magdalena, but in later years she

seems to have been known as Margaret.

John G. Helmer and his wife Magdalena Ehle were the parents of six children:

1. Anna (Nancy) born October 2, 1786.

2. Johannes (John I.) born August 30, 1788. Sponsors Johannes Ehle and Elizabeth Ehle.

3. Christian, born March 27, 1791. Sponsors Henry Nellis and Christina Helmer, his wife.

4. Gottfrid, born December 30, 1793. Sponsors Anthony Ehle and Catharine Berhch (Barse,,)

5. Elizabeth (Betsy) born June 14, 1796.

6. Mary (Polly). No date of her birth. She may have been the daughter mentioned in his pension application as being twenty years of age in 1820.

Anna Helmer

Anna (Nancy) Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born October 2, 1786. Died March 8, 1844. She married Abraham Walradt and lived at Theresa, Jefferson County, N. Y. Abraham Walradt was born October 9, 1784. Died March 8, 1826.

Anna Helmer and her husband Abraham Walradt were the parents of the following children:

1. Margaret, born May 18, 1806. Died 1848.

2. David A. born January 18, 1809. Died February 26, 1852.

3. William, born May 24, 1811. Died June 17, 1811.

4. George, born April 30, 1812. Died August 26,.....

5. Elizabeth, born August 16, 1813. Died 1877.

6. Godfrey, born June 3, 1816. Died April 22, 1868.

7. Magdalena (Lany) Catharine,

born August 31, 1819. Died April 22, 1870.

8. Ambrose, born August 28, 1821. Died July 4, 1883.

9. Harmon, born December 26, 1823. Died October 6, 1824.

10. Anna Maria, born March 19, 1826. Died December 24, 1831.

John I. Helmer

John I. Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born at Palatine, Montgomery County, August 30, 1788. He married Elizabeth (Betsy) Walrath and moved to the Town of Pike, Wyoming County, N. Y., about the year 1822.

1. Zebulon, born July 29, 1813. Baptized February 6, 1814 at Fort Plain. Sponsors Peter Brown and Nancy, his wife.

2. James.

3. Oshea.

4. John D., born March 4, 1819, at Canajoharie, N. Y.

5. Sally.

6. Jemima.

7. Maria.

8. Jelany.

9. Herman Knox.

10. Leonard.

Two of these children died in infancy

Godfrid Helmer

Godfrid Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born December 30, 1793, at Palatine, Montgomery County. The record of his birth is found in the St. Johnsville Reformed Church. It is not known where he lived.

An old letter written February 16, 1895, by his cousin Abraham Ehle, born about 1805, living at Blaine, (name of State not given) states that Godfrid Helmer learned the harness business at Buel (name of State not given).

No further record of his family.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth (Betsy) Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born at St. Johnsville, N. Y., June 14, 1796. Died November 21, 1875. She married in Febraury, 1824, Dr. John D. Davison, born June 23, 1793. Died September 22, 1865. They lived at Theresa, N. Y. all their married life and are buried there.

They were the parents of five children:

1. James Madison, born December 29, 1824. Died January 2, 1854.
2. Jerome Bonaparte, born January 12, 1827. Died June 29, 1885.
3. Mary Jane, born March 30, 1829.
4. John Lester, born September 8, 1833.
5. Nathan Monroe, born January 4, 1836.

Mary Helmer

Mary (Polly) Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was probably born about 1800. Her father made an application for pension for Revolutionary service in 1820 and stated that he had a daughter twenty years of age at that time. She may have been this daughter, as no other children are known of this age.

Polly Helmer married a Mr. Ashley. Some of their descendants are now living in California.

Lany Catharine Walradt

Lany (Magdalena) Catharine Walradt⁶, Anna Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born August 31, 1819. Died April 22, 1870. Lived at Theresa, Jefferson County, N. Y. She married Percival D. Bulard.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Ida, who married a Mr. Purdy and is now living at Theresa, N. Y.

Ambrose Walradt

Ambrose Walradt⁶, Anna Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born August 28, 1821. Died July 4, 1883. Lived at Theresa, N. Y. He married (1st) Esther U. Fischer and (2nd) Helen Thompson.

No record of children.

John D. Helmer

John D. Helmer⁶, John I.⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born at Canajoharie, N. Y., Mar. 4, 1819. When he was about three years of age his parents moved to the Town of Pike, Wyoming County, N. Y. He died in January, 1904. He married about 1850 or 1851 Lemira A. Everest, daughter of David Everest of Pike, N. Y. John D. Helmer was president of the Vacuum Oil Company of Rochester, N. Y.

John D. Helmer and his wife Lemira A. Everest were the parents of five children:

1. Ella May, born September 16, 1852.
2. Frederick Duncan, born March 11, 1860.

Also three other sons who died in infancy.

Zebulon Helmer

Zebulon Helmer⁶, John I.⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born June 29, 1813. Baptized February 6, 1814, at Fort Plain, N. Y. His baptismal name was Zebulon Montgomery Pike, named after the celebrated Lieutenant of the United States Army who a few years previously had discovered Pike's Peak in Colorado. Zebulon Helmer died in 1864. He married Elvira——, born in 1820. Die in 1910. Both are buried in the cemetery at Pike, Wyoming County, N. Y.

They were the parents of three sons, all soldiers in the Civil War

and all buried in the cemetery at Pike. They were:

1. William C., Co. A 130 Reg. N. Y. State Volunteers Died June 12, 1864, aged 27 years His wife's name was Rosan..... They had a son and daughter, both died young. All are buried at Pike.

2. Stephen H., Co. B 2nd Reg. N. Y. State Volunteers . Died April 6, 1864, aged 25 years.

3. George W., Co. B 2nd Reg. N. Y. State Volunteers Died June, 1864, aged 23 years.

Herman Knox Helmer

Herman Knox Helmer⁶, John I.⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ married Betsy Maria Kellar.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Frank A., now living at Chicago, Illinois.

2. Olive.

3. Carrie.

John Lester Davison

John Lester Davison⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born in 1833. Died in 1925. He married in 1859 Mary Frances Helmer, born July 2, 1834. Died in 1897. Mary Frances Helmer was the daughter of Steuben Helmer and his second wife Fannie Mulford. The ancestors of Mary Frances Helmer⁶ were Steuben⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹.

They were the parents of three children:

1 Wilfred P. born 1863.

2 Arthur Lester born 1868. Died in 1894.

3. Frances H. born 1870.

Nathan Monroe Davison

Nathan Monroe Davison⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born in 1836.

Died in 1874. He was a physician. He married (1st) Asenath Halleck and (2nd) Helen Ryther.

Nathan Monroe Davison and his second wife were the parents of one son:

1. Frank Nathan born in 1869.

Ella May Helmer

Ella May Helmer⁷, John D.⁶, John I.⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born September 16, 1852. She married James A. Jones, a farmer of Pike, Wyoming County, N. Y.

They were the parents of two children:

1. Nellie.

2. Roy, born about 1876, who died at the age of 17 years and 7 months, being asphixiated at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893.

Frederick Duncan Helmer

Frederick Duncan Helmer⁷, John D.⁶, John I.⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born March 11, 1860. Died June 2, 1908. He was graduated from Yale University. He married in July, 1885 Jennie White.

They were the parents of one son:

1. Harry W. now living in Chicago, Ill.

Kate Moak

Kate Moak⁷, Mary Jane Davison⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born in 1854. Died 1890.. She married Gillman P. Evans.

They were the parents of one daughter:

1. Jesise O. who married Alfred A. Stratton. They are the parents of three children: Burton, born 1907; Paul born 1909 and Arthur born 1911.

Wilfred P. Davison

Wilfred P. Davison⁷, John Lester Davison⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, John

G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born in 1863. He married in 1890 Nora A. Mix.

1. Arthur S. born 1899 who married Marian Steranka

Frances H. Davison

Frances H. Davison⁷, John Lester Davison⁶, Elizabeth Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born in 1870. She married in 1899 William C. Shapleigh, born in 1866. They are now living in Lockport, N. Y.

They are the parents of four children:

1. Lester Bartlett born 1901.
2. Frances born 1903, died 1916.
3. William C., Jr born 1906
4. Alexander D. born 1909.

John G. Helmer in the Revolution First Application for Pension

State of New York
Montgomery County

On this 15th day of June, 1820 personally appeared John G. Helmer, aged sixty two years, resident in said County of Montgomery, who being duly sworn does declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows: In Capt. Gray's Company in Col. Gansevoort's Regiment of the New York line of continental troops.

And I, John G. Helmer, do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March, 1818and that I have not in that time disposed of my property or any part thereof.

John G. Helmer.

Sworn to 15th day of June, 1820.

Schedule of the property of John G. Helmer.

Real estate—none.

Personal estate—two cows, one steer, one mare and colt, twelve sheep and five lambs, one iron kettle

(hold two pails full).

My occupation is a carpenter but I have not worked at that business for four years and he is not able from age and ill health to pursue his occupation.

I have a wife aged sixty who lives with me who enjoys poor health.

I have two daughters, who yet reside with me, one aged twenty-three, the other aged twenty years, and they are able to labour but they labour for themselves, my sons have left home.

I enjoy but poor health.

John G. Helmer.

Second Application for Pension

State of New York
Allegany County

On this twenty-eighth day of September, 1832, personally appeared.....

John G. Helmer, a resident of the Town of Pike in said County of Allegany in the State, of New York aged seventy-four years on the fifteenth day of February last, who being duly sworn says

That he entered the service in the latter part of January, 1777 as a militia man.....

He went under the command of Capt. William Fox who was attached to Colonel Cox's Regiment, from the Town of Canajoharie in the (then) County of Tryon, now Montgomery County, in the State of New York, where he then resided and in which county he was born, to Ticonderoga, and was employed in the service against the British and Indians until the 17th of March when he returned home.

In July of the same year he went to Unadilla with other militia of the same company under the command of Capt. Peter Bowman in Col. Cox's Regiment. The forces employed there

at that time were under the command of General Herkimer, who in connection with Col. Cox agreed on a treaty of peace with Brandt the Indian chief.

The agreement was violated immediately by the Indians. He was absent from home at that time about two weeks. Soon after his return he was again called into service under the same Captain, under command of General Herkimer and marched to Oriskany where they had a severe engagement with the Indians on the 6th day of August, in which the American forces gained the victory, though with a severe loss. A brother of the applicant was killed in the engagement and also Captain Bowman who was a brother-in-law of him, the said John G. Helmer and also Lieutenant Campbell of the same company. That after assisting to remove the wounded to Herkimer he returned to Oriskany to bury the dead.

That soon after his return he was ordered out with others to Saratoga County and was absent on that service about three weeks under Captain John Bowman, brother of Captain Peter Bowman who was killed as above mentioned.

That he was afterwards in the same year called out on sudden alarms in the neighborhood in which he was engaged in some skirmishes with the Indians.

(Here followed over two pages of his services.)

That he was born at Palatine now in Montgomery, then in Albany County, February 15th, 1758. That he resided in Montgomery County until September, 1827, since which he has resided in Pike, Allegany County.

That he knows no person whose testimony he can procure who is acquainted with his services except Robert Flint whose testimony he has

procured.

That he cannot accurately estimate the amount of time he was engaged in the service but he believes it would amount to more than three years.

That he has a record of his age contained in his family Bible which was copied from the family record of his father's family and which he believes to be correct.

Johannes G. Helmer.

Sworn to Sept. 28, 1832.

Affidavit of Robert Flint of Pike, N. Y. in Support of Pension Claim of John G. Helmer

Robert Flint of Pike, Allegany County, being duly sworn says that he was seventy-five years of age in March last, that he was from childhood acquainted with John G. Helmer of Pike, that he remembers that in the month of July, 1777 the said John G. Helmer with other militia was called in the service of the United States against the Indians..... that they went to Unadilla,..... his deponent also went being attached to the same company that said John G. Helmer belonged to.

This deponent understood at that time that said John G. Helmer went with the same company of militia in the latter part of July to Oriskany and that he was in the Battle fought with the Indians on the 6th of August when Capt. Bowman was killed, but this deponent did not accompany that expedition being unable to go on account of lameness. That he remembers the said John G. Helmer went into the service in May or June, 1778, in the company of rangers drafted from the militia of Tryon County. This deponent was drafted and served in said company and said John G. Helmer went as a

substitute for Andrew Gray who was drafted. The said company was employed in scouting among the Indians and they were dismissed January 1, 1779.

(Then followed a page of various services.)

Robert Flint.

Sworn to 28th day of Sept., 1832.

CHAPTER XX.

Joseph Helmer in the Revolution

Joseph Helmer⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born February 8, 1762. Died February 12, 1820. He married September 16, 1788, Susanna Flint, daughter of Alexander (Sander) Flint. The record of their marriage is found in the Fort Plain Reformed Church. Joseph Helmer lived in the Town of Minden, Montgomery County, N. Y.

Joseph Helmer served as a private in the Tryon County Militia, First Regiment, under Col. Samuel Campbell. He was at the Battle of Johnstown.

The records of New York State troops in the Adjutant General's Office at Washington, D. C., show the names of Johan Jost, Anyost, Han-yost, Joseph and Jost Helmer. In "New York in the Revolution" by Roberts the name is also spelled Hen-yost and John Jost Helmer. The various ways of spelling this name leads one to believe there was possibly more than one man of this name who had service in the Revolution.

Joseph Helmer had a cousin Hana-jost Helmer (son of Johannes) who has been previously mentioned in chapters II and VI of this series. The will of Lendert Helmer, their grandfather, was dated June 27, 1781, and mentions this cousin, who perhaps also had service in the Revolution.

Joseph Helmer and his wife Susan-

na Flint were the parents of eight children:

1. Mary (Polly).
2. Steuben (christened Frederick William Baron Steuben) born October 22, 1790. Sponsors Charles Nukerk and Elizabeth Flint.
3. Margaret.
4. Cornelia.
5. Catharine.
6. Magdalena (twin) born January 31, 1802.
7. Christina (twin) born January 31, 1802.
8. Gilbert Warden born May 29, 1805.

Mary (Polly) Helmer

Mary Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ is believed to have been the eldest child of Joseph Helmer and therefore born about 1789. She married John Cole.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Gilbert.
2. Walter.
3. Caroline.
4. Albert H. who lived at Fergus, Minnesota.

Steuben Helmer

Steuben Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born in the Town of Minden, Montgomery, N. Y., October 22, 1790. His baptismal name was Frederic William Steuben and was recorded in the St. Johnsville Reformed Church under date of November 2, 1790. He died August 30, 1874.

Stephen Helmer lived in a farm at Oak Hill, four miles from Cherry Valley and six miles from Fort Plain, and between the villages of Salt Springville and Sprout Brook, two miles each way from Oak Hill. This farm has been referred to as "the old homestead" and was probably the

home of his parents, who were residents of the Town of Minden. He lived on this farm until about 1860, when he moved with his family to Lockport, N. Y., where three of his sons were living.

Steuben Helmer was married three times. He married (1st) December 30, 1817, Mary (Polly) Hammond, born September 1, 1797, died August 24, 1824.

He married (2nd) December 29, 1824 Mrs. Francis (Fannie) Mulford, born February 16, 1792, died March 26, 1838.

He married (3rd) July 16, 1840, Abigail Stark of Connecticut, born August 20, 1804, died March 27, 1891.

Children by the first marriage:

1 Joseph William born December 6, 1818.

2. Josiah Hammond born January 23, 1821.

Children by the second marriage:

3. Mulford, born Oct. 17, 1825.

4. Charles D. born Nov. 18, 1827.

5. Albert M born March 10, 1832

6. Mary Frances born July 2, 1834.

Children by the third marriage:

7. Joshua Stark, born Sept. 8, 1841, who lived at Toronto, Canada. No record as to his family other than he had eight children, seven sons and one daughter.

8. James Lathrop, born May 24, 1844. Died Jan. 26, 1845.

9. Edward Emerson, born July 8, 1848. Now living with his daughters at Vancouver, British Columbia, Can.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, married (1st) Philip Phenes (Venus). She married (2nd) about 1847 James Jordan, after the death of his first wife Catherine Helmer.

Children by the first marriage:

1. Martin who was a soldier in the

Civil War. He lived at Olean, N. Y. Died about 1904 and is buried at Cuba, N. Y. He married Hattie They were the parents of two children, Fred and Harriet

2. Orlando R. who lived at White-stone, Queens County, N. Y.

3. Barney, a Lieutenant in the 76th N. Y. Regiment and was killed at Petersburg, Virginia, in the Civil War.

Cornelia Helmer

Cornelia Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, married John Jordan, brother of James Jordan who married (1st) Catherine Helmer and (2nd) Margaret Helmer, both sisters of Cornelia.

Cornelia Helmer and her husband John Jordan had only one son:

1. Orlando who married Helen Powers.

Catherine Helmer

Catherine Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ married James Jordan who located in Cuba, N. Y., about 1824. He married (2nd) Margaret Helmer, sister of Catherine and Cornelia Helmer.

Catherine Helmer and her husband were the parents of nine children:

1. Alonzo H. born December 13, 1825. He lived at Cuba, N. Y. in 1906. He had three sons. At the age of sixteen years Alonzo H. Jordan commenced to run the Allegany River to Pittsburg and Cincinnati on rafted lumber until he was 28 years old. There were no railroads then and he walked twenty times home from Pittsburg, a distance of over 200 miles.

2. Almida who married Sanford Reddish .

3. Roxaline.

4. Dewitt.

5. Joel, who had two children, Frank and Ida

6. Margaret who married Orra Kinney. Five children.

7. Mary who married Clinton Miner. One son Archie.

8. Martha who married Wallace Southworth. One son Floyd.

Magdalena Helmer

Magdalena Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born January 31, 1802. She had a twin sister Christina. Magdalena Helmer married December 5, 1822, William Jacobs, born June 6, 1796.

They were the parents of eight children:

1. James Henry, born June 5, 1826.
2. Sarah, born April 15, 1829.
3. Joseph William, born April 6, 1832.
4. Mary Frances, born October 18, 1835. Died December 6, 1877.
5. Marcus M.
6. Steuben H., born May 8,.....
7. Emma (twin) born February 9, 1844.
8. Evaline (twin) born February 9, 1844.

Christina Helmer

Christina Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born January 31, 1802. She had a twin sister Magdalena. Christina Helmer married Henry Reury (Ranney).

They were the parents of six children:

1. Charlotte. Never married. Lived at Pleasant Brook, Otsego county, N. Y.
2. Jane who married a Mr. Walrod.
3. Julia who never married.
4. Joseph
5. Jacob who lived at Little Falls, N. Y.
6. James.

Joseph William Helmer

Joseph W. Helmer⁶, Steuben⁵, Jo-

seph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born December 6, 1818 in the town of Minden, Montgomery County, N. Y. He died about 1916 in Chicago, Illinois at the age of 98 years. He was engaged in the real estate business in Chicago and lived in that city from 1877 to the time of his death in 1916. He was an elder and teacher of the adult Bible class in the Sixth Presbyterian Church in Chicago nearly forty years.

Joseph W. Helmer married (1st) Louise Schuyler, born February 10, 1819. He married (2nd) August 8, 1865 Mary Henrietta Roby.

He had four sons and four daughters, among them being:

1. Lillian, now living in New York City. Unmarried.
2. Harry.
3. Clara who married Rev. William P. Merrill, pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church at 37th Street and Fifth avenue, New York city.
4. Ella who married William S. Jackson.
5. Joshua.
6. Emma.

Josiah Hammond Helmer

Josiah H. Helmer⁶, Steuben⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born January 23, 1821 in the Town of Minden, Montgomery County, N. Y. He died about 1906 at the age of 85 years.

He married (1st) May 19, 1853 Anna Eliza Ranney, born August 18, 1834, of Theresa, N. Y.

He married (2nd) Sarah Elizabeth Rogers of Lockport, N. Y. Sarah Elizabeth Rogers was born December 17, 1832, died July 10, 1866.

Children by the first marriage:

1. Anna Florence.

Children by the second marriage:

2. George.
3. Elizabeth R. now living at Buf-

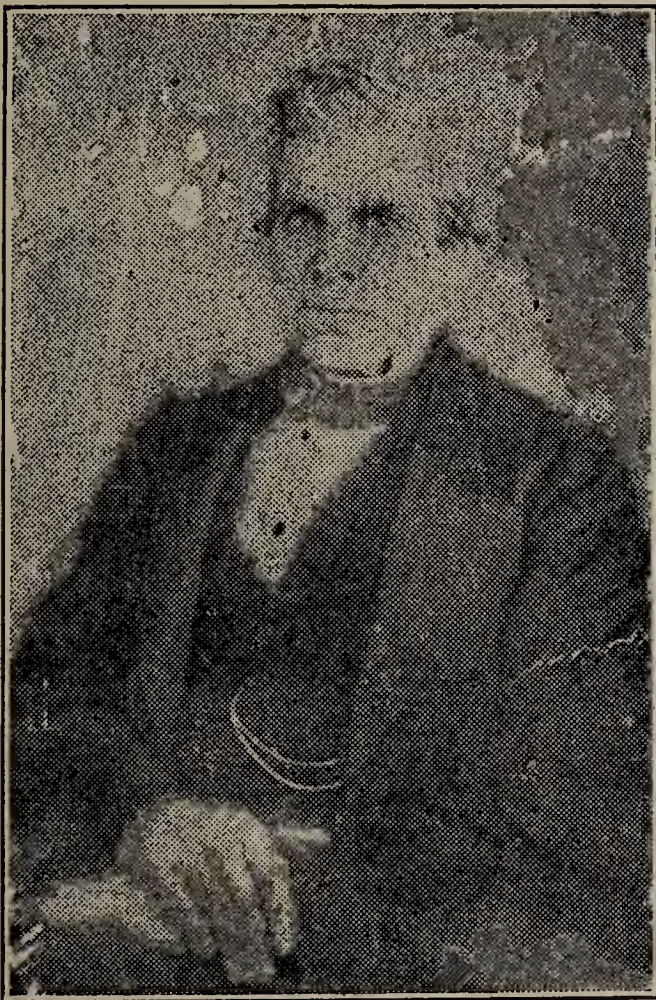
falo, N. Y. Unmarried.

4. Albert R.

5. William R.

Gilbert Warden Helmer

Gilbert Warden Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born May 29, 1805. He died March 6th, 1869. He married first Margaret Walradt and (2nd) either Maria Rice or Abbie Miller. The record is not clear as to the name of his second wife. Gilbert W. Helmer and



Gilbert Warden Helmer

Born May 29, 1805, died March 6, 1829 at Cuba, N. Y.

both wives are buried in the Cuba, N. Y. cemetery. Gilbert W. Helmer was a deacon in the Methodist church at Cuba, N. Y.

Gilbert W. Helmer and his first wife were the parents of eight children:



Mrs. Gilbert warden Helmer

Second wife of Gilbert W. Helmer.

1. Highwell Dunlap, born December 13, 1826.
2. Louise born Dec. 24, 1828.
3. Amelia Ann born Nov. 9, 1832.
4. Margaret born June 19, 1836.
5. Steuben born Feb. 22, 1838.
6. Catherine E. born May 4, 1840.
7. Mary Jane born Oct. 7, 1842.
8. John J. born Nov 18, 1844

Mulford Helmer

Mulford Helmer⁶, Steuben⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born October 17, 1825 in the Town of Minden, Montgomery county, N. Y. His baptismal name was Baron Steuben Mulford.

He married January 12, 1849 Almira King, born August 24, 1828.

They were the parents of one son:

1. Charles now living at Buffalo, N. Y.

Rev. Charles D. Helmer

Charles D. Helmer⁶, Steuben⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born November 18, 1827 in the Town of Minden, Montgomery County, N. Y. He died April 28, 1879. The name of his wife has not been obtained. Rev. Charles D. Helmer was pastor of a Congregational Church in Chicago, Ill.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Mrs. Samuel C. Parks, now living at Cody, Wyoming.

Albert M. Helmer

Albert M. Helmer⁶, Steuben⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born March 10, 1832 in the Town of Minden, Montgomery County, N. Y. He was a surgeon in the 28th N. Y. State Regiment in the Civil War. He was taken prisoner and taken to Libby Prison at Richmond, Virginia. He returned at the close of the Civil War and died in Milwaukee, Wisc. The name of his wife has not been obtained.

They were the parents of a son:

1. Newhall.

Mary Frances Helmer

Mary Frances Helmer⁶, Steuben⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born July 2, 1834 in the Town of Minden, Montgomery County, N. Y. She died in 1897. She married in 1859 John Lester Davison, son of Dr. John D. Davison and his wife Elizabeth (Betsy) Helmer, who lived at Theresa, N. Y.

John Lester Davison was also a descendant of the Helmer family. His maternal ancestors were Elizabeth Helmer⁵, John G.⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹. These have been mentioned in Chapter XIX of the Helmer family.

Mary Frances Helmer and her husband John Lester Davison were the parents of three children:

1. Wilfred born in 1863.
2. Arthur Lester, born in 1868. Died in 1894.
3. Frances H. born in 1870.

For a continuation of this line see Chapter XIX of the Helmer family.

Edward Emerson Helmer

Edward E. Helmer⁶, Steuben⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born July 8, 1848 in the Town of Minden, Montgomery County, N. Y. About 1860 he moved with his parents to Lockport, N. Y. He resided about forty years in Chicago, Ill., where all his children were born. He is now 83 years of age and is living with his daughters in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

He had three children, all born in Chicago, Ill.:

1. Abbie who married a Mr. Vining and is now living in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
2. Ruth who married a Mr. Colbourne and is now living in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
3. Ralph who died about 1928 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Margaret Jordan

Margaret Jordan⁶, Catherine Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ married Orra Kinney.

They were the parents of five children:

1. Arthur who married Della Pendleton.
2. Eva F.
3. Carrie E. who married Frank Peckam.
4. Ida May.
5. Florence.

Emma Jacobs

Emma Jacobs⁶, Magdalena Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert²,

Philip¹, was born Feb. 9, 1844. She died July 22, 1904. She married Nelson William Smith and lived at Cortlandville, N. Y.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Winifred who married Arthur Gutave Koenig.

Joseph William Jacobs

Joseph W. Jacobs⁶, Magdalena Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born April 6, 1832. He married Julia Northup and lived either at Cortland or Cortlandville, N. Y.

They were the parents of two sons:

1. Fred.
2. Bert.

Marcus M. Jacobs

Marcus M. Jacobs⁶, Magdalena Helmer⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, married May 5, 1860 May Northup.

They were the parents of one son:

1. Clayton who lived at Auburn, N. Y.

Highwell Dunlap Helmer

Highwell Dunlap Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born near Cherry Valley, N. Y., December 13, 1826. He died February 2, 1912 at the age of 86 years at the home of a daughter at Bolivar, N. Y. He married February 19, 1857, Julia Jordan, born March 5, 1833, in Otsego county, N. Y. She died December 31, 1899, at Port Allegany, Pa.

Highwell Dunlap Helmer was a veteran of the Civil War. In 1864 he enlisted as a private, being mustered in a member of Company A, 85th New York Volunteers and served till the end of the war. He was mustered out of service at New Berne, N. C. on June 27, 1865.

Highwell D. Helmer was engaged

in the undertaking business in Port Allegany, Pa., for many years and for more than fifty years had been a resident of McKean County, Pa. For many years he held the office of Justice of the Peace in Port Allegany and was familiarly known as Judge Helmer.

Highwell D. Helmer and his wife Julia Jordan were the parents of seven children:

1. Irvin who died in infancy.
2. Irwin Roy.
3. Alberton D.
4. Ida.
5. Daniel Steuben.
6. Mittie who married (1st) Augustus Lamhofer and (2nd) Walter Morris.
7. Ada.

Louise Helmer

Louise Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born December 24, 1828. She married Peter Yerdon.

They were the parents of eight children, four boys and four girls:

1. Willis L. who married Grace Woodworth. One daughter Hazel A.
2. Florence.
3. Jonas Adam who married Susie Vincent.
4. Herbert B. who married Rose Riggles.
5. Helen Philene, who married Oscar B. Coleman. One daughter Lena M.
6. John L. who married Edith Elizabeth Hyatt. Three children, James F., Archie L. and Harold J.
7. Ralph P. who married Josephine Ryan
8. Gilbert J. who married Arie E. Hooper. One son Clarence Roy who married Daisy May Short.

Amelia Ann Helmer

Amelia Ann Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵,

Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born November 9, 1832. She married Rufus Watson.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Olin who died in February, 1917, and is buried in Chicago, Ill. He had several children.

2. Osro R. born in 1857.

3. Efie M. born in 1868.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born June 19, 1836 in Montgomery County, N. Y. She married Ralph H. Sawyer who was born November 19, 1834 at New Haven, Conn. They lived at Morris, Illinois.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Walter H. born about 1856. He married (1st) Clara Marshall and (2nd) Angie Ford.

2. Helen J. born about 1861.

3. Lettie E. born about 1868. She married Samuel F. Armstrong.

Steuben Helmer

Steuben Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹, was born February 22, 1838. He was killed in May, 1864, at the Battle of the Wilderness in Virginia. He married Hannah....., a short time before he enlisted in the Civil War. His widow Hannah..... later married a Mr. Parker and died in Olean, N. Y.

Steuben Helmer met the death of a real hero on the battlefield at the battle of the Wilderness. When his comrades came to him after the battle they found him leaning against a stump, having been shot through the chest. He said to them, "Save the others first. I have so small a chance to live. Come back after me if you can." They returned later but a fire had swept over the field and the

wounded had perished before relief came.

Catherine E. Helmer

Catherine E. Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born May 4,, 1840. She died, April 8, 1892. She married Robert Nichols.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Frank, now living at Marion, Indiana.

2. Minnie.

3. Fred.

Mary Jane Helmer

Mary Jane Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born October 7, 1842. Died February 3, 1920. She married October 15, 1863 Oliver G. Wilder, at Joliet, Illinois. He died July 7, 1913. Both are buried at Roselawn, Illinois.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Josephine May.

2. Mary M.

3. Worden Steuben.

4. Sherman, who died in infancy December 5, 1880.

John J. Helmer

John J. Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born November 18, 1844. He was married three times.

He married (1st) Mary Walruth, born April 19, 1849. Died January 17, 1877, at Cuba, N. Y.

He married (2nd) Emma A. Hunt, who died June 15, 1896 at Buffalo, N. Y.

He married (3rd) November 17, 1898, Theresa Dean, born August 6, 1854, at Meadville, Pa.

John J. Helmer was a veteran of the Civil War. He lived at Conneaut, Ohio.

No record of children.

Anna Florence Helmer

Anna Florence Helmer⁷, Josiah H.⁶, Steuben⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ married Charles L. Snow.

They were the parents of a son:

1. Helmer who married Bess Thorn, They are now living at Albion, N. Y., and have two children: Charles L. and Elizabeth Ann.

Erwin Roy Helmer

Erwin R. Helmer⁷, Highwell D.⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ married Josie Campbell and is now living at Port Allegany, Pa.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Ora B. who married Floyd Shurtz.

2. Frederick who married Mabel Scott. They have a son Gilbert.

3. Edna who married Max Roys. They have a son Max, Jr.

Alberton D. Helmer

Alberton D. Helmer⁷, Highwell D.⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ married (1st) Addie Catlin and (2nd) Mrs. Chloe Lyman. Now living at Port Allegany, Pa.

Their children:

1. Lena, who married John Fox. They have two children, a son Ralph and a daughter Gertrude who married Therlow Kinney.

Ida Helmer

Ida Helmer⁷, Highwell D.⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born about 1861. Died March 22, 1921. She married Frank Fanton and lived at Wellsville, N. Y.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Bessie.

Daniel Steuben Helmer

Daniel Steuben Helmer⁷, Highwell D.⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born May 23, 1863. Died May 16, 1926. Married September 2, 1903 Bertha Hall, born March 4, 1874, daughter of John G. Hall and his wife Elnora B. Grinols of Port Allegany, Pa.

Daniel S. Helmer was born at Coleville, Pa. He received his early education in the schools of McKean County, Pa., after which he was graduated from a business course and later from the Law College of Valparaiso University in the State of Indiana. After taking a post graduate course in the Chicago Law School he engaged in the practice of law in the City of Chicago. After a residence of seven years in Chicago he returned to Port Allegany, Pa. and was one of its most prominent citizens. He held many offices of trust and prominence in Port Allegany, among which were Borough Attorney, Councilman, President of the Board of Education and trustee of the First Presbyterian Church.

Daniel S. Helmer and his wife Bertha Hall were the parents of two children:

1. Doris who married Robert G. Hartman, and lived at Austin, Pa.

2. James M., of Port Allegany, Pa.

Ada Helmer

Ada Helmer⁷, Highwell D.⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ married Charles Greer and is now living in Los Angeles, California.

They are the parents of two children:

1. Harry H. who married Jessie Clark. Two children, Charles and Jean.

2. Hazel who married Alanson Kinney. Two children Jack and Lois.

Josephine May Wilder

Josephine M. Wilder⁷, Mary Jane Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ married Daily M. Boyle and is now living at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

They are the parents of five children:

1. Jesse.
2. Truman.
3. Oliver, who died in 1920.
4. Fay.
5. Opal.

Mary M. Wilder

Mary M. Wilder⁷, Mary Jane Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ married James E. Kennedy.

They are the parents of four children:

1. Paul.
2. Cecil.
3. Lloyd.
4. Raymond who died July, 1898, aged two months.

Worden Steuben Wilder

Worden S. Wilder⁷, Mary Jane Helmer⁶, Gilbert W.⁵, Joseph⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ married Edith Lesson at Durham, Ontario, Canada. They now live at Roselawn, Indiana.

They are the parents of two children:

1. Theron W.
2. Oliver H.

CHAPTER XXI.

John P. Helmer in the Revolution

John P. Helmer⁴, Philip³, Adam², Philip¹ was born July 7, 1757. The date of his birth is found in his application for pension on account of his services in the Revolutionary war. His parents were Philip Helmer and his first wife whose name is not

known. His father married a second wife May 4, 1762, who was Maria Philippina Ecker.

John P. Helmer enlisted in the fore part of the Revolution in the company commanded by Captain Jacob Shaver or Seaver in Col. Willett's Regiment. While in that company he assisted in building Fort Stanwix. He also served under Captain Demuth in a company of Rangers or Scouts until April, 1777. He continued in service and was in the Sullivan Campaign in 1779 as a boatman. He was at the Battle of Newtown. After that he was taken prisoner by the Indians and was taken to Fort Niagara in Canada and held prisoner over two years. While a prisoner at Fort Niagara he was kept most of the time in irons, the scars of which he still bore at the time he made application for pension. At the close of the Revolution he was released and returned to his home near German Flatts.

Affidavit of Jacob Hauser

Among the pension papers of John P. Helmer is an affidavit executed in May, 1847, by Jacob Hauser, then 80 years of age "and upwards." Jacob Hauser stated that he was born and reared in Herkimer County and at an age of thirteen years was taken prisoner by some Indians and carried captive to Canada. While a captive at Fort Niagara he became acquainted with John P. Helmer. After the close of the Revolution Jacob Hauser returned to Herkimer and about the year 1807 moved to the Town of Cicero, Onondaga County, N. Y.

Family of John P. Helmer

John P. Helmer lived at German Flatts at the time of his enlistment. He was born July 7, 1757. He married January 15, 1786, Maria Wolff,

born about 1768, daughter of Michael Wolff. About the year 1802 John P. Helmer with his family moved to the town of Manlius, Onondaga County, N. Y., at which place he died January 20, 1833. His wife Maria Wolff (sometimes called Anna Maria) died some time between November 27, 1820, (the date of his application for pension) and January 20, 1833, the date of his death. Eight children are mentioned in his pension papers, but according to the church records there were probably three or four other children. John P. Helmer stated in his pension application that his occupation was that of a tailor.

The pension papers of John P. Helmer state that there were several other persons by the name of John Helmer and in consequence he took the middle letter "P" to distinguish him from others of the same name. Also that there were three John Helmers belonging to the same regiment, viz. John P. Helmer, another John F. Helmer and a third John G. Helmer.

John P. Helmer and his wife Maria Wolff were the parents of the following children:

1. Philip born January 1 or June 1, 1787. Sponsors Conrad Fr: Helmer and Margaret Scherer.

2. Margaret, born December 28, 1788. Sponsors Jacob W. Petry and Margaret Helmer.

3. Gertrude, born April 3, 1790. Sponsors Fritz Riegel and Gertrude Demuth.

4. Lena (Magdalena) born November 15, 1791. Sponsors Godfrey Riegel and Lena Tyghart (Dygert).

5. Johannes (John), born December 15, 1793. Sponsors Philip Kelsch and Margaret

6. Michael, born about 1796.

7. Adam.

8. Anna, born January 6, 1802. Spon-

sors Frederick Petry and Catharine Domb (Thum).

9. Elizabeth (Betsy).

10. Henry, born about 1805.

11. Eva, born about 1807.

Query—Was the following their daughter? Maria Catharine, born August 8, 1797. Sponsors Jacob Helmer and Catharine Ohrendorff. This record is found in the Stone Arabia Reformed Church and may be of another family.

Philip Helmer

Philip Helmer⁵, John P.⁴, Philip³, Adam², Philip¹, was born either January 1 or June 1, 1787. The church record gives the date as June 1, 1787, while the tombstone gives his birth as January 1, 1787. He was born at German Flatts and moved with his parents to the Town of Manlius, Onondaga County, N. Y. about the year 1802. He moved to the State of Michigan and died May 6, 1856, aged 69 years 4 months and 5 days. He is buried in the Upton Cemetery near Parma, Michigan.

Philip Helmer was a soldier in the War of 1812.

Philip Helmer married (1st) Lena Harter and (2nd) (wife's name unknown).

Children by the first marriage:

1. William Henry, born about 1815.

2. John, born about 1819.

3. James, born January 17, 1820.

Children by the second marriage:

4. Mary.

Michael Helmer

Michael Helmer⁵, John P.⁴, Philip³, Adam², Philip¹, was born about 1796, at German Flatts, N. Y. His parents moved to the Town of Manlius, Onondaga Count, N. Y., about 1802. He always lived in the Town of Manlius where some of his descendants now reside. His wife's name is not known.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Rudolph, who lived at Manlius.
2. John, who lived and died on a farm in the Town of Pompey, a few miles from the village of Manlius. Buried at Jamesville, N. Y.
3. Joseph, who moved to the State of Michigan where he died.
4. Mary, who married George Miller and moved to the State of Michigan, where he died.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elisabeth (Betsy) Helmer⁵, John P.⁴, Philip³, Adam², Philip¹, married a Mr. Newman. She was mentioned in letters accompanying the pension papers of her father. Probably lived in the vicinity of Manlius, N. Y.

No record of children.

Eva Helmer

Eva Helmer⁵, John P.⁴, Philip³, Adam², Philip¹, was born about the year 1807. In her father's pension application executed November 27, 1820, he stated that this daughter was then thirteen years of age. She married a Mr. Wright and also probably lived in the vicinity of Manlius, N. Y.

No record of children.

William Henry Helmer

William Henry Helmer⁶, Philip⁵, John P.⁴, Philip³, Adam², Philip¹, was born about 1815. He lived near Syracuse, N. Y. He was called "Uncle Henry" by his nieces and nephews. His wife's name is not known. He died November 27, 1854.

They were the parents of nine boys.

John Helmer

John Helmer⁶, Philip⁵, John P.⁴, Philip³, Adam², Philip¹, was born about 1819. He moved to Jackson,

Michigan in 1858, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was twice married.

He married (1st) Isabella Cook, a native of Ireland, and (2nd), wife's name not known.

Children by the first marriage:

1. Mary Jane.
2. Isabella.
3. Edwin L., who married..... A daughter, Mrs. Anna Helmer Wininger, now living near Jackson, Michigan.

Children by the second marriage:

4. J. Frank.
5. Fred.
6. George.
7. John.
8. Kate.

James Helmer

James Helmer⁶, Philip⁵, John P.⁴, Philip³, Adam², Philip¹, was born January 17, 1820, near Manlius, Onondaga County, N. Y. He learned the trade of blacksmith when young and worked at it for a number of years. He married October 15, 1843, Laura Worden, born December 16, 1827, daughter of Jabez Worden and his wife Esther Parks. Laura Worden's father and his nine brothers were soldiers in the War of 1812, and their father was Captain of the company called the Silver Grays. Laura Worden was one of a family of twelve children, eight daughters and four sons.

James Helmer moved with his family to the State of Michigan when the first two children were quite small. The last four children were born in Michigan.

James Helmer and his wife Laura Worden were the parents of six children:

1. Sarah, who married Steven Ludlow. One daughter Dollie who married Samuel Beal.

2. Albert M., who married Eunice Landon.

3. Joseph, who married Katie Prescott . Five children: Lotta, Lee, Glenn, Jessie and Iva.

4. John B., who married Clara Livingston.

5. William H., who married Ida Joslin.

6. James E., who married Lizzie Chapel.

Rudolph Helmer

Rudolph Helmer⁶, Michael⁵, John P.⁴, Philip³, Adam², Philip¹, was born near Manlius, N. Y. He kept a hotel at Manlius Station a number of years. After selling this hotel he went to Prescott, Canada. He was twice married but the names of his wives are not known.

He had the following children:

1. William, who lived at Manlius, N. Y. One son Ernest now living at Manlius.

2. A daughter who married Andrew J. Larkin and lived at Baldwinsville, N. Y.

3. Mary, who married a Mr. Brown and lives at Manlius, N. Y.

4. Almira, who married a Mr. Lowrie and is now living at Seattle, Washington.

John P. Helmer's Application for Pension

On this 27th day of November, 1820, personally appeared before meJohn Helmer aged 62 years..... that he the said John Helmer enlisted for six months in the fore part of the Revolution in the Company commanded by Captain Jacob Seaver, in Colonel Willett's Regiment at the German Flatts, in the State of New York, that while in that company he assisted in building Fort Stanwix.

And he was with his army in the battle of Newtown. After this he was

taken prisoner by the Indians in the service of the enemy and was detained a prisoner in Canada until the close of the War of the Revolution. That while a prisoner in Canada his sufferings were very great for the most part of the time in irons, the scars of which are now to be seen upon him.

I have no property except schedule of small articles.

And I do further declare that my occupation is that of a tailor but that I am unable to labor at anything; that the number of my family is four, my wife Mary Helmer aged fifty-two years, able to labor for the most part of the time. My son John Helmer, Jr., who is twenty-seven years old, able to support himself, my son Henry Helmer aged fifteen years able to labor and my daughter Eva Helmer aged thirteen, not able to support herself .

John Helmer.

Subscribed and sworn to 27th day of November, 1820.

Affidavit of his Son Michael Helmer Relative to His Father's Revolutionary Service

State of New York)
County of Onondaga)

I, Michael Helmer, of the Town of Manlius in said County, aged fifty years, being duly sworn, say I am the son of John Helmer, late of said Town deceased, who some times went by the name of John P. Helmer, in order to distinguish him from other persons by the name of John Helmer; when he first removed to this town, he went by the name of, and wrote his name John Helmer which was his true baptismal or Christian name. The said John Helmer according to the family record was born July 7, 1757.

Deponent has often heard John

Helmer say that he was a prisoner over two years, and until the close of the Revolutionary War and that he came from the Town of German Flatts in the now County of Herkimer, where he lived when the said War commenced, that he served in a company of Rangers.

That he served under Captain Shaver, Colonel Willett's Regiment, that he assisted in building Fort Stanwix; he served under Captain Demuth of the Rangers until April, 1777; that he was at the Battle of Newtown.

Michael Helmer.

Sworn to the 29th day of July, 1846.

**Affidavit of Michael Helmer Relative
to His Father's Revolutionary
Service**

State of New York)
County of Onondaga)

I, Michael Helmer, in the matter of my application I have made in behalf of myself and my brothers and sisters, children of John Helmer, deceased, for a pension, I do depose and say that when my said father John Helmer came to reside in the Town of Manlius in said County in which he died and in which I now live, to wit about forty-five years ago, he wrote his name John Helmer as it was originally before he was of age and during the War of the Revolution, and he continued to write his name John Helmer without a middle initial until the day of his death. of Manlius he was induced to use a middle letter "P" in consequence of there being several persons of the name of John Helmer besides himself.

I undertook to procure additional testimony. I visited a Mr. Walter, a Revolutionary pensioner at that time living in said Town of Manlius and he the said Walter being himself aged and out of health, I was unable

to bring about a personal interview between said Walter and my father, and no affidavit was obtained from him. About a year after this occurrence my father died in the seventy-eighth year of his age.

I remember that said Walter told me at the time that I visited him that there were three John Helmers belonging to the same Regiment my father did whom he the said Walter well knew, viz. my father John and two others, the one named John F. Helmer and the third John G. Helmer.

Michael Helmer.

Sworn to the 26th day of May, 1847.

**Affidavit of Jacob Hauser in Support
of the Pension Claim of the
Children of John P. Helmer**

State of New York)
County of Onondaga)

I, Jacob Hauser, being aged 80 years and upwards.....do depose and say, that I was born and reared in that part of the County now called Herkimer. That when about thirteen years of age I was taken prisoner by some Indians and was carried captive to Canada.

After my return from captivity I took up my residence in Herkimer, where I resided until about forty years ago when I moved to the Town of Cicero, in said County of Onondaga, where I now reside.

I saw and became acquainted with John Helmer at Niagara in Canada, he being also a prisoner.

I am acquainted with Micahel Helmer, Philip, John and Henry his brothers and Lany Helmer, all children of said John Helmer.

his
Jacob x Hauser.
mark

Sworn to the 24th day of May, 1847.

Letter to G. F. Yates to the Commissioner of Pensions Relative to the Pension Claim of Children of John P. Helmer

Albany, July 31, 1846.

Col. J. L. Edwards,
Commissioner of Pensions.
Sir:

John Helmer, late of the Town of Manlius, Onondaga County, N. Y., died on the 20th January, 1833, leaving no widow surviving but the following children, all over 21 years of age: Adam Helmer, Philip Helmer, Henry Helmer, John Helmer, Jr., Michael Helmer, Lany Helmer, Eva Wright, Betsy Newman.

This John Helmer is the same person who made application for a pension under Act of March, 1818, in which he said he was a prisoner of war for over two years.

Pay is claimed from 30th of March, 1826, to the 20th January, 1833, being day he died.

Respectfully your obdt. client,
G. F. Yates.

CHAPTER XXII.

PHILIP HELMER OF MANHEIM: A Soldier of the Revolution

Philip Helmer born June 11, 1757, enlisted at Stone Arabia, January 15, 1777, served as private in Captain Andrew Finck's Company in Colonel Goose Van Schaick's New York Regiment; he was in the Battles of Lake George and Monmouth and was discharged November 1, 1779. He enlisted April 1, 1780, served as private in Captain Hamtramck's Company in Colonel Du Bois' New York Regiment and was discharged December 31, 1780.

He was known as "Philip Helmer of Manheim" to distinguish him from several others of the same name. He is buried in the Manheim cemetery.

It is impossible to obtain any clue

from either his pension papers or the old family Bible as to who were his parents. His record should not be confused with that of Philip F. Helmer, a portion of whose record appeared in Chapter XIII. Neither should he be confused with another Philip Helmer, a Tory, who also married a Margaret Bellinger and had five daughters.

Philip Helmer of Manheim was allowed pension on his application executed April 24, 1818 at which time he was living in Palatine, Montgomery County, N. Y., with one of his children, whose name was not stated in his pension application.

He married May 9, 1783 Margaret Bellinger, born about 1750. An affidavit executed June 11, 1820, found among his pension papers stated that his wife was seventy years of age, thus being seven years older than her husband.

This Philip Helmer was the only soldier of this name whose record appears among the Revolutionary War records of the Pension Office at Washington, D. C.

The record of his birth is found in his application for pension. In the old family Bible his birth is given as June 11, 1757, which agrees with his pension application. The record of his marriage on May 9, 1783, to Margaret Bellinger is also found in the old family Bible.

The following is the record from the old family Bible, written in German, of his birth, marriage, and births of son, etc. The dashes are for words not legible:

Philip Helmer sein brethe buch im Jahr Desimber 31, 1804.

Philip Helmer isth Gebohren then 11 Junie, 1757.

Philip Helmer isth Gethrau with Margrath Belliner in Jahr, 1783, Mey 9.

Im Jahr 1795, Agasth 14th, tho Isth
Mein Son Leonharth gebohren. Sein
Fether enth Gott George Gettman en
sein frau.

Im Jahr 1821, Merz 13 (?)
..... ist John Helmer
William gebohren Gott
Rasten sein
spek (?)

The record of the birth of his son
Leonard August 14, 1795, is also
found in the Stone Arabia Reformed
Church.

Children ----

Philip Helmer of Manheim and his
wife Margaret Bellinger were the
parents of four children, possibly
more:

1. Melaine (Magdalena), who mar-
ried January 21, 1798, Casper B. Cook.

2. Peter, who went to Canada about
1820 and located at Osnabrook, Stor-
mont County, Ontario.

3. Elizabeth, born about 1791. Died
about 1884 at La Crosse, Wisc. at the
age of 93 years. Married Henry
Smith.

4. Leonard, born August 14, 1795.
Married Nancy Grey.

Melaine Helmer ----

Melaine (Lena or Magdalena) Hel-
mer, daughter of Philip Helmer and
Margaret Bellinger, his wife, was
probably the eldest child. She was
quite young when she married Janu-
ary 21, 1798, Casper B. Cook. They
lived in the vicinity of Stone Arabia.

They were the parents of nine or
ten children, the eldest a son, then a
number of daughters and the young-
est a son. Three daughters married
into the Edwards family, two daugh-
ters into the Nellis family, one into
the Thum family and one into the
Beck family.

The names of the following child-
ren have been obtained:

1. Ira.

2. Margaret, born December 1,
1801. Sponsors Peter Cook and Cath-
arine Loucks.

3. Elizabeth, born September 1,
1806. Sponsors Johannes Cook and
Catharine, his wife.

4. Roslyn.

5. Caspar, Jr.

Peter Helmer ----

Peter Helmer, son of Philip Hel-
mer and Margaret Bellinger, his wife,
moved to Canada about 1820. He was
living with his family at Osnabrook,
Stormont County, Province of On-
tario, Canada, in the year 1834. He
married a Miss Rombough.

They were the parents of either
ten or twelve children, seven sons
and either three or five daughters,
among them the following, probably
born between the years 1820 and
1840:

1. Sidney.

2. Peter, Jr.

3. Philip.

4. Jacob Leonard.

5. William.

6. John.

7. Amos.

8. A daughter who married a Mr.
McIntyre, in whose family there is
an old Helmer Bible. Will some one
please copy these old records if pos-
sible?

Elizabeth Helmer -----

Elizabeth Helmer, daughter of Phil-
ip Helmer and Margaret Bellinger,
was born about 1791. She died about
1884 at La Crosse, Wisconsin, at the
age of 93 years. She was living with
a relative at the time of her death.

Elizabeth Helmer married Henry
Smith, only child of William Smith.
Henry Smith was killed by a runa-
way horse on the streets of Fonda
and left three children quite young.

Elizabeth Helmer and her husband

Henry Smith were the parents of three children, all born in Fulton County:

1. Caswell, who married and had six children. In 1846 he was living at Osnabrook, Ontario, Canada.

2. Clarissa, who married Guy Remps and lived in Canada.

3. Alexander, born about 1810. Died in 1885. Lived at Ephratah, Fulton County, N. Y. He married and had a daughter Annie M., born about 1833, who married a Mr. Bittinger and was living at St. Joseph, Missouri in 1916. Another daughter was named Elizabeth and was living in 1891.

Leonard Helmer

Leonard Helmer, son of Philip Helmer and Margaret Bellinger, his wife, was born August 14, 1795. He was a soldier of the War of 1812. He married Nancy Grey, and lived at Dolgeville, N. Y.

They were the parents of twelve children:

1. Leonard, Jr.

2. John.

3. Samuel, born February 8, 1820. Married Margaret Grey.

4. Philip, born August 9, 1823. Married Emeline Spofford, sister of General Spofford and had an adopted daughter.

5. George.

6. Reuben, who married Margaret Getman.

7. Elijah.

8. Levi.

9. Eliza.

10. Mary Ann.

11. Phoebe.

12. Julia.

Sidney Helmer

Sidney Helmer, son of Peter Helmer was probably born about the year 1820 or thereabouts: No definite date obtained. He married and lived at Lunenburg, Ontario, Canada.

He had four children

1. George, who is now living on the old homestead at Lunenburg, Canada. He has the original deed of transfer when his grandfather Peter Helmer bought the farm when he went to Canada from the Mohawk Valley. He has a son Mr. R. S. Helmer now living at Ottawa, Canada.

2. Mina, now Mrs. Loucks and living at Massena, St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

3. Mary, now Mrs. Alex Gallagher and living at Covington, N. Y.

4. Maggie, now Mrs. C. Hurd and living at Massena, N. Y.

Peter Helmer, Jr.

Peter Helmer, Jr., son of Peter Helmer, married and had at least two children:

1. Joseph, now deceased.

2. Charles, who lived at Lunenburg, Canada.

Philip Helmer

Philip Helmer, son of Peter Helmer, probably born about 1825 to 1830 married and had children, among them being:

1. Wesley.

2. George.

William Helmer

William Helmer, son of Peter Helmer, married and had four children:

1. William, Jr., born about 1851 or 1852, who died March 11, 1931, at Cumberland, Ontario, Canada in the 80th year of his age.

2. Mrs. J. Quinn of Finch, Ontario, Canada.

3. Mrs. Nancy Forsyth of Osnabrook, Ontario, Canada.

4. Mrs. W. J. Jardine of Ottawa, Canada.

Samuel Helmer

Samuel Helmer, son of Leonard Helmer and Nancy Grey, his wife,

was born February 8, 1820, in the Town of Manheim, Herkimer County, N. Y. He married Margaret Grey, niece of Nancy Grey, and lived at Dolgeville, N. Y.

They were the parents of five children:

1. Anna who married N. S. Brockett. Their daughter Mrs. C. E. Morrey is now living at Utica, N. Y.

2. Hannibal, born May 30, 1845. Married (1st) Alice Sullivan and (2nd)..... Englehardt.

3. Dwight now living at Dolgeville, N. Y.

4. Edward.

5. Jean, who married Clarence Snell and is now living at Herkimer, N. Y.

George Jacob Helmer

George Jacob Helmer was another member of the Canada branch of the Helmer family. It was not definitely known who his parents were, but it is believed he was the son of Philip Helmer, mentioned above, and the grandson of Peter Helmer who located in Canada about 1820.

George Jacob Helmer married and had seven children:

1. Sidney who was a farmer in Hastings County, Ontario, Canada. He had four sons and four daughters, among them being Wesley and Rodney.

2. Rodney, who was a farmer and lived in Sterling, Ontario, Canada. He had five or six children.

3. Charles, who left home when 18 years of age and went to the Black Hills, South Dakota. Never heard from since.

4. Ziney, who married Angelina Hollister.

5. Eliza, married a Mr. Lont.

6. Nancy, who married a Mr. Seccord and lived at Sterling, Ontario, Canada. They had two daughters.

7. Catherine, who married a Mr. Dougherty and lived at Osnabrook, Ontario, Canada. They had four sons and two daughters, among them being: James, Scott, Wesley, Wallace and two daughters.

Ziney Helmer

Ziney Helmer, son of George Jacob Helmer, married Angelina Hollister, daughter of Barney Hollister of Osnabrook, Ontario, Canada. They were the parents of ten children:

1. Charles, who married Jennie Gordon of Morrisburg, Ontario. They had one son who died at the age of six years.

2. Sidney, who married Caroline Beckstead of Canada. Both deceased. No children.

3. Theodocia, who married John Robson and lived at Moulinette, Ontario, Canada. They had one son and two daughters, Walton, Laura and Lottie.

4. Lillian, who married John Hamblin of Potsdam, N. Y. Lived near Rochester, N. Y. One son Frank.

5. Melinda, who married Pembroke Robertson and lived at Buffalo, N. Y. Two daughters, Blanche and Eva.

6. Agnes, who married a Mr. Matthews and lives in the State of Texas.

7. George Jacob, who married (1st) May Sime of Sime, Ontario, Canada. He married (2nd) in 1897 Gail Hood of Chelsea, Vermont. His first wife died at the birth of twins, May and Katharine. He had two sons by the second marriage, George Jacob, Jr. and Charles William. George Jacob Helmer was a physician and lived at Nyack, Rockland County, N. Y.

8. Maria, who married Fred Alexander and lived at Napanee, Ontario, Canada. No children.

9. John, who married Ettie Merkley of Canada. Lived at East Orange,

N. J. Two daughters, Beulah and Florence.

10. Edna, who married George Merkley and lived at Flushing, Long Island, N. Y. No children.

Philip Helmer in the Revolution First Application for Pension

State of New York)
Montgomery County)

Be it remembered that on the 24th day of April, 1818, appeared before me.....Philip Helmer, aged sixty years the 11th day of June last, resident of the Town of Palatine.

He enlisted in Stone Arabia in the State of New York in the company commanded by Colonel Goose Van Schaick on or about the 15th January, 1777; that he continued to serve in said corps until on or about the 1st day of November, 1779, when he was discharged from service at Fort Stanwix. He again enlisted April 1, 1780.

He continued in service until December 31, 1780, and was discharged from service at Morristown.

Philip Helmer.

Second Application for Pension

State of New York)
Montgomery County)

On this 11th day of June, 1820, personally appeared Philip Helmer, aged 63 years, resident of Palatine in said State. He doth declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows: In Captain Andrew Finck's and Hamtramik's companies in Colonel Goose Van Schaick's and Du Bois' regiments, in New York line.

That I have no income except contained in the following schedule.....

I was brought up a farmer but have not been able to do any work for thirteen years past, being lame by means of rheumatism. I have a wife living with me who is seventy years of age for whom I must pro-

vide; that I have no other means of support than what I receive from the pension.

his

Philip x Helmer.

mark

Philip Helmer of Palatine in the State of New York who was a private in the regiment commanded by Colonel Van Schaick of the New York Line for term of 20 months, 1777.

Pension issued 14th of July, 1819.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Philip F. Helmer in the Revolution Additional Descendants

Philip F. Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹, born about July, 1740, died June 8, 1830, aged 90 years, less 1 month and some days. The names of five of his children were given in Chapter XIII of the Helmer Family articles. Additional information has been received that his family consisted of eight children, four boys and four girls.

Philip F. Helmer, born about July 1740, had a twin brother Lieutenant George F. whose record and family was given in Chapter XII.

Philip F. Helmer married July 17, 1763, Anna (Nancy) Mayer (Myers), a sister of General Michael Myers. Philip F. Helmer brought his bride from New Jersey on horseback to Herkimer. Nancy Myers, his wife, was born about 1747. She died August 12, 1829, aged 82 years 12 days.

Philip F. Helmer and his wife Nancy Myers were first buried in what is now Myers Park, but at that time it was called the "New Burial Ground" 'to distinguish it from the "Old Burial Ground" surrounding the Reformed Church at Herkimer. In the year 1897 when the "New Burial Ground" was converted into a park, their remains were removed

and interred in the Oak Hill Cemetery in the plot of his grandson Luther Helmer, which had been given in exchange for two lots owned by him in the village cemetery besides the land owned there by his ancestors.

The Death of the Tory Walter N. Butler

Philip F. Helmer was a scout with Colonel Willett's Regiment during the Revolution. The story is told by a grandson that Philip F. Helmer took part in an expedition with other soldiers and with the aid of a party of friendly Indians in the pursuit and capture of the savages and Tories under the leadership of Walter N. Butler.

Butler had conducted a raid thru the Mohawk Valley, killing the inhabitants, burning dwellings and destroying property. Colonel Willett's forces pursued Butler's force and came upon them near or a little above what is now called Prospect and along the West Canada Creek, then an unbroken forest. Philip F. Helmer was in the advance part of the command and saw when Butler, the Tory leader, was killed. The creek was narrow enough to cross with what was called a setting pole, by placing the pole midstream and swinging onself to the opposite side. Butler waved his arm over his head in defiance thinking they could not get him but he was mistaken. Those not killed fled to Canada and many dared not return, fearing the wrath of the inhabitants against them.

Children

In Chapter XIII the names of the first five children of Philip F. Helmer and Nancy Myers, his wife, were given. The names of their eight children and whom they married are as follows:

1. Elizabeth (Betsy), born September 11, 1765. Married Adam Harter, a soldier of the Revolution.

2. Frederick, born February 17, 1768. Never married.

3. George, born May 25, 1769. Married Catharine Staring.

4. Maria Barbara, born January 11, 1771. Never married.

5. Peter P., born about 1773. Married Margaret Dygert.

6. Nancy (Anna), married Col. Henry J. Myers (his first wife).

7. Margaret, married Nicholas Thum.

8. Philip P., born February 24, 1775. Married (1st) Margaret Barse and (2nd) Mary Osgood.

The record of those children not complete in Chapter XIII are now given.

Elizabeth Helmer

Elizabeth (Betsy) Helmer⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born September 11, 1765. Died December 25, 1838. She married Adam Harter, a soldier of the Revolution, who was a cook in General Washington's camp. They owned and lived on a farm at Schell's Bush.

Elizabeth Helmer and Adam Harter, her husband were the parents of one son and at least five daughters:

1. Abigail (Appollonia), born about 1796. Married September 1, 1836, Peter Piper, a widower. No children.

2. Elizabeth, who married Asa Hanchett, a jeweler by occupation and lived at Herkimer. No children.

3. Eva, who married Marks Countryman, and lived at Truxton, Cortland County, N. Y.

4. Margaret, who married Abram Petrie, and lived at Truxton, Cortland County, N. Y.

5. Catharine, born about 1794, who married Melchert Folts.

6. Henry.

Nancy Helmer

Nancy (Anna) Helmer⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Col. Henry J. Myers, son of John Myers. She was his first wife and died before 1826. Henry J. Myers' second wife was also named Anna (Nancy) Helmer, the daughter of Lieutenant Geo. F. Helmer, and a cousin of his first wife.

Nancy Helmer (the first wife) and Henry J. Myers were the parents of two children:

1. Philip, born January 7, 1803. Probably died young. Sponsors Philip Helmer and Anna Myers, his wife.

2. Philip, born July 1, 1805. Sponsors Philip Helmer, Jr., and Elizabeth Staring, unmarried.

Henry J. Myers and his second wife Nancy Helmer, daughter of Lieutenant George F. Helmer, were the parents of a son:

1. John H. Myers who married February 9, 1826, Maria Bellinger, daughter of Peter F. Bellinger and Elizabeth Harter, his wife.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married John Nicholas Thum.

They were the parents of two children, probably more:

1. Anna, born December 23, 1802. Sponsors Henry Myers and Anna Helmer, his wife.

2. Melchoir, born December 3, 1804. Sponsors Rudolph Devendorf and Maria Elizabeth....., his wife.

Philip P. Helmer

Philip P. Helmer⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born February 24, 1775. Tradition is that he was born at the Fort where the family had taken refuge during one of the Indian raids. He died August 14, 1858.

Philip Helmer was married twice. He married January 26, 1806 (1st) Anna Margaret Barse, daughter of Luther (Lodovic) Barse and Hoyer, his wife. Anna Margaret Barse died February 28, 1813.

Philip Helmer married (2nd) Mary Osgood, born November 2, 1781, at Lebanon, Mass. and died October 14, 1862 at Middleville, N. Y. Mary Osgood was the widow of Paul Grimes and a sister of Relief Osgood.

Philip Helmer and his first wife Anna Margaret Barse were the parents of four children:

1. Luther, born December 29, 1806.
2. Elizabeth, born December, 1808, died May 5, 1853. Never married.
3. Matthew, born October 15, 1810.
4. Margaret, born February 19, 1813.

Philip Helmer and his second wife Mary Osgood were the parents of four children:

5. Nancy A., born May 19, 1815.
6. Mary Elizabeth, born September 2, 1817.
7. Abigail Catherine, born Sept. 2, 1819. Died February 4, 1897. Never married.
8. Philip, born April 12, 1822.

Catharine Harter

Catharine Harter⁵, Elizabeth Helmer⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born about 1794. She died March 28, 1875. She married Melchert Folts⁴, Melchert³, Johan Conrad², Melchert¹. Melchert Folts, husband of Catharine Harter, was born about 1789, died March 20, 1851. They lived on what was known as the Folts Road near Fiddlertown, Herkimer County.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Maria, born in June, 1827. Never married.

2. Clarissa, who married Nicholas Vedder. No children.

3. Adam, born September 6, 1834, died suddenly of heart failure November 26, 1912. He married Helen and had a daughter Ida who married John Thompson.

Henry Harter

Henry Harter⁵, Elizabeth Helmer⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married and lived near Herkimer. His wife's name is not known.

They were the parents of five children:

1. Adam who married Diana Hilts.
2. William who married Mary Tyler.
3. Nancy (Anna) who lived at Moravia, Cayuga County, N. Y. Never married.
4. Mary.
5. Lana, who married John Champion and lived at Moravia, N. Y.

Luther Helmer

Luther (Lodovic or Ludwig) Helmer⁵, Philip⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born December 29, 1806. Died November 21, 1886. Luther Helmer was a fine musician, being a fifer in the 17th Regiment, 4th Brigade, 81st Division of New York State Riflemen for two years from 1827 to 1829. He lived at Herkimer. He was a shoemaker by trade.

Luther Helmer was twice married. He, married (1st) Matilda Kast daughter of George Kast and his wife Anna Smith. Matilda Kast was born April 11, 1807, and died June 15, 1829.

Luther Helmer married (2nd) Mar. 22, 1832, Phoebe Kast, a sister of his first wife. Phoebe Kast was born April 25, 1811, and died September 19, 1886.

Luther Helmer and his second wife Phoebe Kast were the parents of

eight children. No children by the first marriage.

1. George Michael, born September 25, 1832. Sponsors George Cast and Anna....., his wife.

2. Nancy Margaret, born February 2, 1834. Sponsors Timothy Helmer and Catharine....., his wife.

3. Matilda, born March 26, 1837.

4. Luther B., born December 31, 1838.

5. Mary Almira, born November 13, 1840. Never married.

6. Lucy Ann, born August 7, 1844. Died August 14, 1844.

7. Helen, born June 2, 1846. Died July 24, 1859.

8. Frederick Morgan, born May 26, 1848.

Matthew Helmer

Matthew Helmer⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born October 15, 1810 at Herkimer, N. Y. He died January 7, 1867. He married November 6, 1832 Mary Dygert⁶, daughter of Peter Dygert and Elizabeth Helmer⁶, George Ph.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹. Mary Dygert was born January 13, 1813 at Herkimer and died about 1878 at the home of a daughter at Moravia, Cayuga county, N. Y. Both Matthew Helmer and his wife Mary Dygert were first buried in Myers Park and later transferred to Oak Hill cemetery.

Matthew Helmer and his wife Mary Dygert were the parents of nine children:

1. David Henry, born about 1833. Died December 14, 1909. Married Nancy Smith, daughter of Benjamin Smith of Moravia, N. Y. They had one son who died young.

2. William Nelson, born April 5, 1835.

3. Charles Madison, born May 3, 1837.

4. Mary Ann, born May, 1839. Died

October 15, 1902. Married George Dygert⁶, son of Peter Dygert and Mary Helmer⁵, George P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹. George Dygert died January 19, 1908. They lived at Syracuse, N. Y. from where they moved to Cayuga county, N. Y.

5. Cynthia, born September 11, 1841. Died January 10, 1886. Married Byron Cristman and had one son, Seymour.

6. Philip born April, 1844. Never married.

7. Lucy, born in 1846. Married John Forbes, son of James Forbes of Moravia, Cayuga county. They lived at Sempronius, Cayuga county, N. Y.

8. Matthew, Jr., born August, 1848. Married Lidia Forbes, daughter of James Forbes of Moravia, and lived in Cayuga county.

9. Nancy Catharine, born March 7, 1852. Died July 19, 1913. Never married.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born February 19, 1813. Died October 18, 1895. She married December 26, 1832, Conrad Kast, born about 1802, son of George Kast and Anna Smith, his wife.

No record of children.

Nancy A. Helmer

Nancy A. Helmer⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born May 19, 1815. Died October 7, 1869, at Gailesburg, Knox County, Illinois. At one time they lived in Troy, N. Y., from where they moved to Illinois. She married John A. Morse.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Almira who married Eli Dickinson and lived in Cortland County, N. Y. Three children, George, Ida and Asah.

2. George.

3. Augustus.

Mary Elizabeth Helmer

Mary Elizabeth Helmer⁶, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born September 2, 1817. Died February 1, 1892. Married Crandall Waite born February 17, 1810, in Brookfield, Madison County, N. Y. and died July 8, 1860 at Middleville, N. Y.

Crandall Waite was educated at Hamilton College and was superintendent of the Kenyon Mill at Middleville. He was a member of the Baptist church and superintendent of the Sunday School at Middleville many years.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Ira born about 1839. Lived at Jamestown, Chautauqua county, N. Y. He was a veteran of the Civil war. He was twice married, his second wife being Nellie Ocoback. He had one son named Earl.

2. Abigail, born October 4, 1840. Died August 6, 1869. She married James Farmer and lived on a farm between Herkimer and Middleville. They had two children, Wolcott and Grace who married Jerry Boland.

3. Jennie, born April 21, 1843. Died June 21, 1912. Never married.

Note—Mary Elizabeth Helmer and her husband Crandall Waite also had an adopted daughter Matilda.

Philip Helmer, Jr.

Philip Helmer, Jr.⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born April 12, 1822. Died November 27, 1891 at Brookfield, Madison county, N. Y. He married Angeline Hall, daughter of Loren Hall and Louisa Ward, his wife, of Eatonville. They lived in the town of Fairfield and moved to Madison County.

Philip Helmer, Jr. and his wife Angeline Hall were the parents of 12 children:

1. Ada Josephine, born May 11, 1854 in the Town of Fairfield. Married a Mr. Bayliss and is now living at Waterville, N. Y.

2. Daniel Webster, born May 15, 1856. Married a Miss Dye and is now living at Utica, N. Y.

3. Otis Wells (twin), born January 1, 1859. Married a Miss Perkins and lived in New Hartford, N. Y.

4. Oscar Ward (twin), born January 1, 1859. Never married. Lived at Brookfield, Madison county and died October 7, 1913 at New Hartford, N. Y.

5. Jessei D., born February 2, 1860. Married a Mr. Dixon and died in Illinois. They had two children.

6. Lester Grant (twin), born January 20, 1863. Married Rosabelle Folts and is now living at Kast Bridge. Three children.

7. Leslie Mead (twin), born January 20, 1863. Married Marcia Burlingame and is now living at Waterville, N. Y.

8. Gertrude Louisa, born June 28, 1867 at Brookfield, Madison county. Married John Hollowell and is now living at Penn Yan, Yates County, N. Y.

9. Henry W., born January 14, 1869. Died young.

10. Edith, born August 12, 1870. Died young.

11. Grace Abigail, born December 31, 1871. Married Henry Davis and is now living at Brookfield, Madison county, N. Y.

12. Estella V., born April 6, 1873. Died September 23, 1911. Never married.

Adam Harter

Adam Harter⁶, Henry Harter⁵, Elizabeth Helmer⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, married Diana Hilts. daughter of George I. Hilts.

They were the parents of five children:

1. John, a soldier in the Civil War. Returned home from the Civil War after being out with a hunting party, accidentally shot and killed himself while taking his gun from the wagon.

2. Aaron who married Hannah Mills.

3. Henry.

4. Mary who married Walter Cristman, eldest son of Malcom Cristman.

5. Hannah who married Hale Devendorf and lived at Moravia, Cayuga county, N. Y.

William Harter

William Harter⁶, Henry Harter⁵, Elizabeth Helmer⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ married Mary Tyler, daughter of Daniel Tyler. Moved from Herkimer to Moravia, Cayuga county.

They were the parents of two children:

1. Helen.

2. A son.

George M. Helmer

George Michael Helmer⁶, Luther⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born September 25, 1832. Died August 3, 1896. He was graduated with honors from Fairfield Seminary March 23, 1858. He married in February, 1867 Maria Louisa Hale.

They were the parents of four children:

1. George Ulysses who married (1st) Martha Cristman. who died February 15, 1892. He married (2nd) in 1895 Anna McMillan. Lived at Little Falls, N. Y. One son by the first marriage, George Irving. Three children by the second marriage, one of whom was Mary Elizabeth.

2. Matilda who married Frank Van Alstine. Two children, Bennie and Charlotte.

3. Nancy Katherine who married Robert Patterson. Eight children: Clarence, Ethel, Robert E., Edna, Gertrude, Ruth, Nellie and Grace.

4. Leroy who went to Texas.

Nancy M. Helmer

Nancy Margaret Helmer⁶, Luther⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born February 2, 1834 at Herkimer. She died about 1930 at the age of 96 years. She married October 24, 1855 William Folts⁶, Allen⁵, Conrad⁴, Melchert³, Johan Conrad², Melchert¹. William Folts died May 6, 1911.

Nancy M. Helmer was educated at Fairfield Seminary. She was a devout member of the Reformed church and her husband a member of the Methodist church. She was greatly interested in the genealogy of the Helmer family, well educated and her penmanship was very fine. It is largely from data that she had collected that this chapter has been arranged.

Nancy M. Helmer and her husband William Folts were the parents of three children:

1. Helen Rosabelle, born September 27, 1863.

2. Sherman Grant, born October 24, 1864.

3. John Howard, born January 29, 1871.

Matilda Helmer

Matilda Helmer⁶, Luther⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born March 26, 1837. She married in 1865 Ambrose B. Arnold and lived at Scott Hill until after her husband's death which occurred August 26, 1892. Matilda Helmer died June 25, 1899.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Polly now living at Herkimer.

2. Thomas Roscoe, who died March

29, 1896. Never married.

3. Helen now living at Herkimer.

Luther B. Helmer

Luther Bradish Helmer⁶, Luther⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born December 31, 1838. Died February 29, 1916. In 1866 he married Mary Esther Cristman. They lived about one-half mile from Eatonville in the Town of Herkimer.

They were the parents of six children:

1. Louis S. who married Nancy C. Fulmer, only daughter of John and Margaret Fulmer. One daughter Grace May

2. Luther R. who married Ella C. Cristman, only child of Varnum Cristman. Now living at Herkimer

3. Lester L. who married Brettie Angeline Brown, daughter of Marshall Brown of Eatonville. He died May 13, 1911, leaving two small children, Earl and Pearl Angeline.

4. Phoebe L. who died May 21, 1911. Never married.

5. Harry C. who married Maude Kast Two children, Essie May and Ernest.

6. Mabel Esther who died aged 13 years.

Frederick M. Helmer

Frederick Morgan Helmer⁶, Luther⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born May 26, 1848. He married Rosanna Griggs of Vienna who was born February 22, 1853 and died April 29, 1888. They lived at Middleville and Kast Bridge.

They were the parents of five children:

1. Nellie who married Charles Saunders, a railroad employee, and lived at Pulaski, N. Y. Two children, Leon and Ruth.

2. Herbert, who married Mabel and now living in New Hartford, N.

Y. Four children, Clarence, Anna, Audrey and a younger son

3. Hettie Matilda who married John Knope and is now living in Amsterdam, N. Y. Two children, Rose and John, Jr.

4 Blanche Phoebe, who married John Rowe and is now living in Amsterdam, N. Y.

5. Ruby who married John Donovan and is now living in Amsterdam. Two children, Blanche and a younger daughter

William N. Helmer

William Nelson Helmer⁶, Matthew⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born April 5, 1835. Died March 9, 1899. He married June 17, 1857, Nancy Cristman, daughter of Lehman Cristman. Nancy Cristman was born February 24, 1834 and died December 26, 1912.

They were the parents of two children:

1. Nellie C.
2. Devillo N. who married Cora Morey, daughter of Fred Morey of Fairfield, N. Y.

Charles M. Helmer

Charles Madison Helmer⁶, Matthew⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born May 3, 1837. Died June 6, 1912. He married Margaret Forbes, daughter of James Forbes of Moravia, Cayuga County, N. Y.

They were the parents of six children:

1. Ellsworth who died at the age of two years.
2. Franklin Eugene who married Melinda Cristman.
3. Eva May who married George Benson. Two children Charles and Bessie who married Merton Harter.
4. Minnie who married John W. Fulmer. Two children, Cyrus and

Frank.

5. Charles J. who married Bertha Cristman, daughter of Norton Cristman and his wife Margaret Rasbach.

6. Jennie, who married Alvah Potter. Two sons and two daughters.

Lester G. Helmer

Lester Grant Helmer⁶, Philip⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born January 20, 1863. He had a twin brother Leslie Mead. Lester G. Helmer married December 16, 1890, Rosabelle Folts, daughter of William Folts and his wife Nancy Margaret Helmer. Rosabelle Folts' paternal ancestry was William Folts⁶, Allen⁵, Conrad⁴, Melchert³, Johan Conrad², Melchert¹. Her maternal ancestry was Nancy M. Helmer⁶, Luther⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹.

Lester G. Helmer and his wife Rosabelle Folts are now living on a farm at Kast Bridge.

They are the parents of three children:

1. Laura B.
2. Naoma F.
- 3 Howard P.

Sherman G. Folts

Sherman Grant Folts⁷, Nancy M. Helmer⁶, Luther⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born October 24, 1864. Married January 16, 1889, Alice J. Cole. They now live at Bluff Point, Yates County, N. Y.

They are the parents of four children:

1. Edward C.
2. Maude E.
- 3 William K.
4. Allen P.

J. Howard Folts

J. Howard Folts⁷, Nancy M. Helmer⁶, Luther⁵, Philip P.⁴, Philip F.³,

Frederick², Philip¹ was born January 29, 1871. He married Harriett Getman of Schells Bush. They are now living in New York city.

One son Burr Carlton.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Descendants of Henry Helmer

Henry Helmer⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born August 20, 1764, probably the youngest child of Godfrid and his second wife Anna Margeretha The record of his birth is found in the Stone Arabia Reformed church. He died about 1849.

His father's will was executed Mar. 14, 1765 and bequeathed unto his son Henry 100 acres of New Patent No. 154.

Henry Helmer married November 4, 1792 Catharine McCaffrey, born about 1770, died about 1837. The record of their marriage is also found in the Stone Arabia Reformed Church. The records of the birth of several of their children are found in the German Flatts and Herkimer Reformed churches.

Six children:

1. John, born November 9, 1793. died 1814, aged 18 years. Sponsors Adam Heffner and Anna Margaret Helmer.

2. Conrad H. born Nov. 19, 1795.

3. Henry, Jr. born Feb. 29, 1800.

4. William, born May 1, 1804. Sponsors John G. Russey and Margaret, his wife.

5. Margaret, born April 23, 1807.

6. Christina, born May 1, 1811.

Conrad H. Helmer

Conrad H. Helmer⁵, Henry⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born Nov. 19, 1795. Died 1875. He married May, 1813 Barbara (Permilia) Getman and lived at Columbia, Herkimer Co.

Two children:

1. Caty Maria, born January 31, 1812. Sponsors Henry Helmer and Catharine Getman, unmarried.

2. George Monroe, born January 18, 1824. Sponsors George Monroe and Margaret Helmer. He was called by the last name Monroe.

Query—Who was Catharine Getman, born May 14, 1812, died May 13, (or 19), 1895, wife of Conrad Helmer and daughter of Bartlett B. Getman and Elizabeth Grant, his wife. She is buried in the "Old Columbia Cemetery," Town of Columbia, Herkimer County. Was she the second wife of Conrad H. Helmer or the wife of a son by the same name of whom we have no record?

Henry Helmer, Jr.

Henry Helmer, Jr.⁵, Henry⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born Feb. 29, 1800. Died about 1887. He married Oct. 14, 1822 Elizabeth Lathrop, born July 3, 1802 and died about 1868.

Seven children:

Emeline born April 12, 1823.

Abigail Katherine born Dec. 23, 1824

Mary Elizabeth born July 3, 1827.

John b. July 27, 1829, d. about 1845.

James born March 2, 1831.

William born Oct. 13, 1836.

Christina born March 22, 1841.

William Helmer

William Helmer⁵, Henry⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born May 1, 1804. He married Jan. 13, 1823 Elizabeth Stanhope (or Sternberg).

No record of children.

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁵, Henry⁴, Godfrid³, Lendert², Philip¹ was born April 23, 1807. Died June 17, 1837 at Hastings, Oswego county, N. Y. She married Jan. 12, 1822 George Benedict.

No record of children.

CHAPTER XXV.

Descendants of John Helmer and
Ann Shaw

John Helmer (probably the son of John P. Helmer and Maria Wolff) died at Alexandria Bay, N. Y., May 20, 1875. He married October 23, 1816 at Johnstown, Fulton county, N. Y. Ann Shaw (Show or Shore), who was born about 1800 and died about 1887. Ann Shaw came from Nantucket, Mass.

There is no reliable record of his birth. Tradition is that he was born about 1778. However, there are several reasons to believe that 1778 was not correct.

At one time he lived at Manlius, Onondaga County, N. Y. From old letters and other data, it is stated that the names of Michael, Adam, Henry and Betsy occurred in his family. Also that he had a brother by the name of Philip.

These six names were among the eleven or twelve children of John P. Helmer and his wife Maria Wolff, who lived at Manlius, Onondaga County, about 1802 to 1833.

Taking this information, one is led to believe that he was the son Johannes (John) born December 15, 1793, mentioned in Chapter XXI. Reliable Bible records are necessary to definitely establish the date of his birth.

If it can be ascertained that he was the son of John P. Helmer and Maria Wolff who moved from Herkimer to Manlius about 1802, then his ancestry would be John P.⁴, Philip³, Adam², Philip¹. It is hoped some one will furnish old Bible records that will add additional information.

War of 1812

John Helmer was a soldier in the War of 1812, enlisting September 14,

1813, as a private in Captain Timerman's Company of New York Militia.

Children

John Helmer and his wife Ann Shaw were the parents of eight children:

1. Melinda who married William Phillips of Manlius, N. Y.
2. William born March 13, 1821 who married Adah Milliner.
3. Marvin born about 1827, who married Cordelia Hill.
4. Aaron who married Margaret Cronkhite of the Town of Alexandria, Jefferson county, N. Y.
5. John Henry, born June 16, 1832 (or 1836) who married (1st) Eleanor Springer and (2nd) Harriet Conant.
6. Adelia who married Alexander Anderson and lived at Johnstown, N. Y.
7. Julia who married Sanford George of the Town of Alexandria, Jefferson County, N. Y.
8. James who was married three times and lived at Atlanta, Georgia.

William Helmer

William Helmer, son of John Helmer and Ann Shaw, was born March 13, 1821. He married Adah Milliner of Rochester, N. Y.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Caroline who married a Mr. Stair and lived at Lake Odessa, Michigan.

Marvin Helmer

Marvin Helmer, son of John Helmer and Ann Shaw, was born about 1827 according to the pension application of his mother. In 1849 he married Cordelia Hill and lived at Redwood, Jefferson County, N. Y. He died about 1903. His wife was born about 1832 and died about 1903.

Marvin Helmer sailed on boats on the Hudson River during the summer

seasons and earned enough money to pay for his farm. At one time he owned about one thousand acres of land in northern Jefferson County. He also sailed on ships carrying supplies out of New York Bay to ships bound for the War with Mexico.

Marvin Helmer and his wife Cordelia Hill were the parents of ten children:

1. Charles, who was twice married. By the first marriage he had a son John P. who lived at Colorado Springs, Colorado.
2. Sarah born August 23, 1854 who married Edward H. Reynolds.
3. Emma.
4. Daniel born August 26, 1858 who married Mattie E. Staring.
5. Mary Jane born June 6, 1859 who married Byron Wilbur.
6. Persis.
7. Harmon.
8. Virginia.
9. Elsie.
10. Berton.

NOTE—One of these daughters married a Mr. Casselman and another married a Mr. Van Driesen of the Mohawk Valley.

Aaron Helmer

Aaron Helmer, son of John Helmer and Ann Shaw married Margaret Cronkhite. Many of their descendants are now living in Jefferson county, N. Y.

They were the parents of five children:

1. Caroline who married Darwin Olney.
2. Julia, never married.
3. Joseph who married Kittie Pierce.
4. George who married Lillie Curtis.
5. Ella who married Henry Allen.

John Henry Helmer

John Henry Helmer, son of John Helmer and Ann Shaw, was born June 16, 1832 (or 1836), at Johnstown, N. Y. He married (1st) Eleanor Springer of Vermont and (2nd) Harriet Conant, January 18, 1875. Many of their descendants are living in the State of Vermont.

He moved to the State of North Dakota. He and his second wife died in Windmere, North Dakota.

Children by the first marriage:

1. Herbert born 1864.

Children by the second marriage:

2. Albert born November 4, 1876. Died September 8, 1877.
3. Aaron E. born June 24, 1878.
4. Lucy Adelia, born April 3, 1880.
5. Andrew born July 31, 1883.
6. Mary Lillian born October 9, 1885.
7. Lida Hortense born May 5, 1888.
8. Clarence Erwin born December 21, 1890.
9. Ralph Lincoln born December 22, 1893. Died October 11, 1918 at Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois.

James Helmer

James Helmer was the youngest child of John Helmer and Ann Shaw. He was married three times. He died at Atlanta, Georgia, several years ago.

James Helmer married (1st) Alice Smidt at Marysville, California, in 1865. Alice Smidt and her parents were from Kentucky and had traveled overland in a prairie schooner to California.

James Helmer married (2nd) in 1875 Cornelia Fitzpatrick Smith, daughter of Rev. Smith of Carthage, N. Y. She died about 1877.

James Helmer married in 1879 (3rd) Adele Gill of Brockville, Ontario, Canada. His widow is now living at Atlanta, Georgia.

James Helmer and his first wife Alice Smidt were the parents of two daughters:

1. Anna who married a Mr. Walker and is now living at Dexter, Jefferson county, N. Y.

2. Emma who married William Brown of Stone Mills, Jefferson county, N. Y.

James Helmer and his third wife Adele Gill were the parents of several children.

Sarah Helmer

Sarah Helmer, daughter of Marvin Helmer and Cordelia Hill, was born about August 23, 1854. Died December 6, 1918. She married November 27, 1877 Edward H. Reynolds, born August 15, 1851. Edward H. Reynolds was the son of Patrick Farrell and Mary O'Donnell and was adopted by the Reynolds family. Many of their descendants are living in Jefferson County, N. Y.

Sarah Helmer and her husband Edward H. Reynolds were the parents of four children:

1. Nettie May born April 12, 1881.
2. Edward Daniel born June 26, 1884.
3. Harry Clarence born May 9, 1886.
4. Ernest Helmer born August 12, 1888.

Edward Daniel Reynolds

Edward Daniel Reynolds, son of Sarah Helmer and Edward D. Reynolds, was born June 26, 1884. He married (1st) August 8, 1908, Sarah Martin, who died September 7, 1913. He married (2nd) November 30, 1916, Louise Sargent.

Children by the first marriage:

1. Sarah Irene born October 16, 1910 now living at Alexandria Bay, N. Y.
2. Herbert Edward, born July 6, 1912.

3. Jesse Martin born September 7, 1913.

Children by the second marriage.

4. Laurence Frederick, born November 14, 1917. Died January 22, 1920.

5. Charles Albert born April 1, 1921.

Harry Clarence Reynolds

Harry Clarence Reynolds, son of Sarah Helmer and Edward H. Reynolds, was born May 9, 1886. He married November 27, 1913 Jane McDonnell.

Ernest Helmer Reynolds

Ernest Helmer Reynolds, son of Sarah Helmer and Edward H. Reynolds was born August 12, 1888. He married April 4, 1920 Marie Antos.

Children:

1. Marie Frances born March 25, 1921. Deceased.
2. Nancy Louise, born September 26, 1929.

Daniel M. Helmer

Daniel M. Helmer, son of Marvin Helmer and Cordelia Hill, was born August 26, 1858, at Alexandria Bay, Jefferson County, N. Y. He died March 22, 1900. He married May 15, 1887, Mattie E. Staring, born 1869, died 1924.

They were the parents of a son:

1. Marvin C., who is agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Mary Jane Helmer

Mary Jane Helmer, daughter of Marvin Helmer and Cordelia Hill, was born June 6, 1859. Died November 3, 1912, at Alexandria Bay, N. Y. She married Byron Wilbur.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Gordon Frank, born April 5, 1882. Occupation engineer.
2. Bertha May, born November 27, 1884.
3. Bessie Amelia, born May 18, 1886 at Little Falls, N. Y.
4. Marvin W., born February 10, 1890.

Caroline Helmer

Caroline Helmer, daughter of Aaron Helmer and Margaret Cronkhite, married Darwin Olney and lived at Clayton, N. Y. Both deceased.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Minnie, who married Leonard Leitermann and is now living at Clayton, N. Y. Two daughters, Lucille and Margaret.

Joseph Helmer

Joseph Helmer, son of Aaron Helmer and Margaret Cronkhite married Kittie Pierce. Joseph Helmer is deceased. His widow Kittie Pierce is now living on a farm at Plessis, N. Y.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Grace, who married George Hardy, postmaster of Philadelphia, N. Y. Five children, Ruth, James, Joy, Fern and Wayne.

George Helmer

George Helmer, son of Aaron Helmer and Margaret Cronkhite, married Lillie Curtis. Both deceased.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Ida, who married Bryce Wills. One daughter Lillie.

Ella Helmer

Ella Helmer, daughter of Aaron Helmer and Margaret Cronkhite, married Henry Allen. Both deceased

No record of children.

Herbert Helmer

Herbert Helmer, son of John Henry Helmer and his first wife Eleanor Springer, was born in 1864. He married July 9, 1889, Rosa L. Springer.

They were the parents of two sons:

1. Ernest Herbert, born about April 27, 1890. Died April 21, 1919.
2. Clifford, born June 8, 1899.

Aaron E. Helmer

Aaron E. Helmer, son of John Henry Helmer and his second wife Harriet Conant, was born June 24, 1878. He married February 15, 1923 Mrs. Jennie Amundson.

They have one son:

1. Lowell Eugene, born December 8, 1923.

Lury Adelia Helmer

Lury Adelia Helmer, daughter of John Henry Helmer and Harriet Conant, was born April 3, 1880. She married (1st) March 18, 1896 Ernest O. Springer, who died November 22, 1909. She married (2nd) October 14, 1911, Charles L. Bradley, who died January 7, 1928.

Children of Lury A. Helmer and her first husband Ernest O. Springer:

1. Serelle Maurice, born September 21, 1896.

2. Alexander E., born April 16, 1902.

Children of Lury A. Helmer and her second husband Charles L. Bradley:

3. Ruth L., born August 19, 1912.
4. Edith May, born July 31, 1914.
5. Mary, born October 7, 1915. Died June 14, 1920.
6. Charles Benjamin, born April 29, 1917.
7. Lester Darrell, born August 17, 1918.
8. Hazel Margaret, born July 8, 1920.
9. Gladys Marion, born July 10, 1921

Andrew Helmer

Andrew Helmer, son of John Henry Helmer and Harriet Conant, was born July 21, 1883. He married December 25, 1906, Grace M. McDowell.

They were the parents of eight children:

1. John George, born October 15, 1907.
2. Clara Harriet, born May 8, 1909.
3. Redia Adelia, born December 16, 1910.
4. Frances Evelyn, born June 27, 1912.
5. Donald Ward, born March 8, 1914.
6. Wayne Herbert, born January 1, 1916.
7. Elsie Grace, born December 5, 1918.
8. Jennie Shellø born November 23, 1921.

Mary Lillian Helmer

Mary Lillian Helmer, daughter of John Henry Helmer and Harriet Conant, was born October 9, 1885. She married February 20, 1906 Chas. Zimmerman.

They were the parents of six children:

1. Harriet Ann, born March 27, 1907.
2. Lillian May, born February 15, 1909.
3. Frances, born April 21, 1911.
4. Eleanor Agnes, born July 8, 1913.
5. Irene Susan, born March 13, 1918.
6. John Charles, born January 27, 1922.

Lida Hortense Helmer

Lida Hortense Helmer, daughter of John Henry Helmer and Harriet Conant, was born May 5, 1888. She married March 18, 1918, John W. Bordeaux and is now living at South Roy-alton, Vermont.

Clarence E. Helmer

Clarence E. Helmer, son of John Henry Helmer and Harriet Conant, was born December 21, 1890. He married July 16, 1913 Augusta May Stewart.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Elaine Clare, born July 26, 1914.
2. Erwin Ralph, born December 10, 1916.
3. Archie Stewart, born March 15, 1918.

Bertha M. Wilbur

Bertha May Wilbur, daughter of Mary Jane Helmer and Byron Wilbur, was born November 27, 1884. She married December 25, 1914 Roy Clark Cummings and is now living at Cortland, N. Y.

They are the parents of three children:

1. Raymond W., born December 13, 1916.
2. Jane Elizabeth, born January 25, 1920.
3. Marian Manchester, born September 30, 1921.

Bessie A. Wilbur

Bessie Amelia Wilbur, daughter of Mary Jane Helmer and Byron Wilbur, was born May 18, 1886 at Little Falls, N. Y. She married April 1, 1908, Frederick Belding Wheeler, born June 24, 1889, at Alexandria Bay, N. Y. Frederick B. Wheeler died March 23, 1918. He was cashier of the Bank of Antwerp, Antwerp, N. Y.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Bertha Elizabeth, born April 14, 1909, a graduate of the Cortland Normal School.
2. Douglas W., born December 1, 1910, a student at Ann Arbor, Mich.

3. Jane Rosalie, born March 10, 1914. Died December 25, 1918.

Marvin W. Wilbur

Marvin W. Wilbur, son of Mary Jane Helmer and Byron Wilbur, was born February 10, 1890. He married Edna Schram. They now live at Alexandria Bay, N. Y.

They were the parents of two daughters:

1. Helen Frances, born April, 1911. A student at the State College for Teachers at Albany, N. Y.

2. Eunice, born December 13, 1917.

Serelle Maurice Springer

Serelle Maurice Springer, son of Lury A. Helmer and her first husband Ernest O. Springer, was born September 21, 1896. He married July 1, 1929, Hazel North.

They had one daughter:

1. Delia Hazel, born May 28, 1930.

Alexander E. Springer

Alexander E. Springer, son of Lury A. Helmer and her first husband Ernest O. Springer, was born April 16, 1902. He married November 26, 1924, Irma Wilson.

They have one daughter:

1. Mavis Lucille, born September 12, 1927.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Loyalists in the Helmer Family

At the outbreak of the Revolution many families in the Mohawk Valley adhered to the British cause. The inhabitants of the vicinity of Johnstown and Fonda had been under the influence of the Johnson family and many joined Sir John Johnson in opposing the Revolution.

In the Helmer family there were several men who remained loyal to the Crown. Some have been mentioned in Chapters IV and VI.

The Canada Branch

Soon after the beginning of the Revolution several brothers of the Helmer family living in the vicinity of Stone Arabia went to Canada. A letter written by a grandson refers to some of these brothers as Philip, John and Godfrid. They were probably grandsons of Lendert Helmer, the Burnettsfield Patentee and nephews of Godfried³, Lendert², Philip¹, mentioned in Chapter V.

Some of these men had families and did not dare return to the Mohawk Valley for them. The wives followed their husbands to Canada in the winter, using hand sleds for their children, provisions and belongings.

One of these brothers located at Williamsburg, Ontario, Canada. Some time after the close of the Revolution another brother returned to the Mohawk Valley and located in the vicinity of East Creek. He raised a large family. Several of his sons later returned to Canada one locating at Osnabrook and others locating first at Cornwall and afterward moving to the vicinity of Ottawa.

From two separate sources information has been received that there were two men by the name of John Helmer who went to Canada at the outbreak of the Revolution. These sources of information refer to each of these men as named John and that they were brothers. This information, of course, is questionable, and additional information is necessary to clear up the record. It is hoped that some of the Canadian descendants of the Helmer family will assist in completing the record of this branch of the family.

The First John Helmer

As told by a grandson the first of these men by the name of John

Helmer was unmarried when he went to Canada and also that he was the son of Philip Helmer.

In June, 1783, he located at Williamsburg, Dundas County, Ontario, Canada. About 1793 he married a French lady in Montreal, journeying 120 miles to that city as there were no clergymen nearer at that time. His wife's name is not known.

John Helmer and his French wife were the parents of three sons and either five or six daughters:

1. John, the eldest son, born about 1795 who died at the age of 90 years. He had eight children, four sons and four daughters, names not known. His eldest son enlisted in the Union Army and was killed in the Civil War.

2. Richard, born about 1807, who died in April, 1895, aged 86 years.

3. Joseph, born about 1813. Killed at the Windmill Battle, Prescott, Canada in 1837 or 1838.

Also five or six daughters.

Richard Helmer

Richard Helmer, son of John and grandson of Philip, was born about 1807. He died in April, 1893 at the age of 86 years. His wife's name is not known.

They were the parents of five sons and one daughter, among them being:

1. William B. who lived at Riverside, California.

2. One son who lived in Michigan.

3. Albert who lived at Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

4. Nathanel, born about 1838, who lived in Ottawa in 1915. He had five sons and two daughters. One son was Col. R. A. Helmer, father of Lt. Alexis M. Helmer who was killed in France in May, 1915, fighting with the British.

The Second John Helmer

Another John Helmer according to old letters went to Canada during the Revolution. Although he is spoken of as being the brother of the John Helmer previously mentioned in this chapter, this information is subject to further proof.

After the close of the Revolution it is stated that he returned to the Mohawk Valley, locating in the vicinity of East Creek and had a large family. It is reported that he had a hard time after returning to the valley, so bitter was the feeling against the Loyalists. The Loyalists not only lost their property through confiscation, but those remaining in New York State were disfranchised, discriminated against in taxation and boycotted in business.

John Helmer married Anna Mulross. She was of Scottish descent, born and raised in England.

They were the parents of seventeen children, twelve sons and five daughters, born about 1775 to 1800, among them being:

1. John, who married Agnes Peterson.

2. Jacob who settled at Osnabrook, Ontario.

3. Philip who married Isabelle Grimshaw.

4. James.

5. Thomas.

6. Aaron.

7. Andrew.

John Helmer, Jr.

John Helmer, Jr., son of John Helmer and Anna Mulross, married Agnes Peterson at Potsdam, N. Y. They with several brothers on both sides immigrated to Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, afterwards locating on the Rideau River about ten or fifteen miles from Ottawa. John Helmer died at the age of 90 years.

John Helmer, Jr. and Agnes Peterson, his wife were the parents of eight children, four sons and four daughters:

1. Aaron.

2. William.

3. John who had a daughter Alice, who married a Mr. Denmark and is now living at St. Catherine, Ontario, Canada.

4. Samuel.

5. Elizabeth.

6. Eliza.

7. Anna.

8 Pauline.

One of these sons married Mary Leslie, born in Westmeath, Ireland and had the following children: Joshua, William, Inkerman, Elizabeth, Margaret and John, the latter living in Duluth, Minnesota in 1915.

Jacob Helmer

Jacob Helmer, son of John Helmer and Anna Mulross went to Canada when very young and settled in Osna-brook, Stormant County, Ontario. He married and had a large family, mostly boys.

Philip Helmer

Philip Helmer, son of John Helmer and Anna Mulross, married Isabelle Grimshaw. He was a shoemaker by trade. He died about 1870 at Turkey Point, near Normansdale, Canada. Isabelle Grimshaw died about 1885.

Philip Helmer and his wife Isabelle Grimshaw, were the parents of nine children, born about 1800 to 1830:

1. Melross (Mulross).

2. Joseph.

3. Andrew.

4. William

5. George.

6. Charles.

7. Philip.

8. Nancy.

9. Elizabeth.

One of these daughters married a Mr. Fitch and died at Simcoe, Canada in 1926 at the age of 112 years. They had a son or grandson named Nathan Fitch who is now living at Courtland, Canada.

George Helmer

George Helmer, son of Philip Helmer and Isabelle Grimshaw, was twice married. He married (1st) Susan Toban and (2nd) Lucinda Parish. Some of their descendants live in the vicinity of St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada.

Children of George Helmer and his first wife Susan Toban:

1. George, Jr.

2. Lorenzo.

3. John.

Children of George Helmer and his second wife Lucinda Parish:

4. Nancy.

5. Phoebe.

6. Maggie.

7. Euphemia

Lorenzo Helmer

Lorenzo Helmer, son of George Helmer and Susan Toban, married Mary Brackett.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Naomi who married a Mr. Pickersgill and is now living at St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada.

Andrew Helmer

Andrew Helmer was probably the son of John Helmer and Anna Mulross. He was one of the Canadian branch of this family and his ancestry has not been definitely determined. He married about 1828 Mary..... and lived at New Hamburg and Preston, Canada.

They were the parents of two sons:

1. John, the eldest, born in Canada

in 1830. Lived in the State of Illinois from 1864 to the time of his death in 1915. His obituary dated in 1915 reads as follows: "Came to Illinois in 1864. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of New Hamburg, Canada, and also a member of the Masonic order from early life. During his younger life in Canada he, with his father accomplished much, clearing many acres of land and building long stretches of wagon roads throughout that Province (Ontario). Many landmarks still bear the name of Helmer."

2. Philip, who also moved to the United States. His granddaughter, Miss Dorothy G. Helmer is now living in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Lieutenant George F. Helmer in the Revolution

Additional Descendants

In Chapter XII appeared the record of Lieutenant George F. Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹. In that chapter it was stated that he was born either in 1739 or 1740. An old family Bible now in the possession of a Helmer descendant, Mr. David H. Bellinger of Mindenville, N. Y. gives the exact date of the birth of Lieutenant George F. Helmer as August 8, 1740 and his death as March 22, 1823.

George F. Helmer had a twin brother Philip F. Helmer, mentioned in Chapters XIII and XXIII. The record from this old Bible is valuable as it definitely fixes the date of the births of these twin brothers, both soldiers in the Revolution. They were the sons of Frederick Helmer and Maria Barbara Kast. Their grandfathers were Philip Helmer and Johann George Kast.

The following are additional descendants:

Anna Helmer

Anna (Nancy) Helmer⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born March 6, 1790. She was the second wife of Col. Henry J. Myers who was the son of John Myers. Col. Henry J. Myers' first wife was also named Nancy Helmer, the daughter of Philip F. Helmer and a cousin of his second wife.

Anna (Nancy) Helmer, daughter of George F., and her husband Col. Henry J. Myers were the parents of a son:

1. John H. Myers who married February 9, 1826, Maria Bellinger, daughter of Peter F. Bellinger and Elizabeth Harter, his wife.

Note—Peter F. Bellinger was born February 22, 1759, died September 9, 1815. He married March 4, 1781 Elizabeth Harter, born October 19, 1764, died June 18, 1823. She was the daughter of Henry Harter, Deacon and Captain of the Militia. Henry Harter was the son of Lawrence Harter and his wife Apolone, Burdett'sfield Patentees.

Peter F. Bellinger's parents were Lieut. Col. Frederick P. Bellinger and Catharine Weber, his wife. Lieut. Col. Frederick P. Bellinger's father was Philip Bellinger.

Mary Jane Helmer

Mary Jane Helmer (christened Maria Catharine)⁵, Jacob⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born July 18, 1812. Died January 13, 1892. She married March 17, 1841 Henry Casler. Henry Casler died May 27, 1872.

Mary Jane Helmer and her husband Henry Casler had three children:

1. Margaret Elizabeth, born June 26, 1843.

2. George Henry, born July 19, 1848. Died July 21, 1861.

3. Amanzo, born August 1, 1845. Died March 7, 1847.

Margaret Elizabeth Casler

Margaret Elizabeth Casler⁶, Mary Jane Helmer⁵, Jacob⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born June 26 1843. She married October 24, 1867, Jonas Bellinger, who died October 2, 1882.

Margaret Elizabeth Helmer and her husband Jonas Bellinger were the parents of a son:

1. David Henry, born February 25, 1874.

David Henry Bellinger

David Henry Bellinger⁷, Margaret Elizabeth Casler⁶, Mary Jane Helmer⁵, Jacob⁴, George F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born February 25, 1874. He married July 6, 1896 Jennie E. Hillegas. They now live at Mindenville, N. Y.

Descendants of Philip F. Helmer

In Chapters XIII and XXIII appeared the record of Philip F. Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹. He was born August 7, 1740. Died June 8, 1830. He had a twin brother Lieutenant George F. Helmer.

The following are additional descendants:

Joseph Helmer

Joseph Helmer⁶, Timothy⁵, Peter P.⁴, Philip F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born at Herkimer January 22, 1826. He married about 1845 Lucinda Smith, daughter of Adam J. Smith and his wife Elizabeth Hiltz. Joseph Helmer owned a farm at Moravia, Cayuga County, N. Y. He and his wife died there.

Lucinda Smith was also a Helmer descendant. Her paternal ancestry was Adam J. Smith⁶, Jacob, Jr.⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹. Her maternal an-

cestry was Elizabeth Hiltz⁴, Philip³, Nicholas², George¹.

Joseph Helmer and his wife Lucinda Smith were the parents of six children:

1. Edward, died about 20 years of age. Never married.

2. Adam, who married Mildred Orendorf and lived at Herkimer.

3. Irving, who died young.

4. Norman, never married. Lived at Moravia

5. Frank (or Joseph, Jr.) Lived at Moravia.

6. Mary, who died at the age of six years.

CHAPTER XXVII

Lieutenant Adam F. Helmer in the Revolution

Additional Descendants

In Chapter XIV was given the record of Lieutenant Adam F. Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹. Additional descendants are as follows:

Margaret Helmer

Margaret Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born September 9, 1778. She married George Passage of the Town of Warren, Herkimer county.

They were the parents of six children:

1. Henry, born January 2, 1806.

2. Eva, born May 7, 1809. She married a Mr. Fox and moved to the State of Michigan.

3. Peter, born January 12, 1812.

4. John, who moved to the State of Illinois.

5. Adam.

6. Lany who married Simon Spohn and lived in Livingston County, N. Y. Simon Spohn was the son of Henry Spohn and Margaret (Peggy) Hiller. Henry Spohn's parents were Nicholas Spohn and Elizabeth Devendorf. Nicholas Spohn's father was

Henry Spohn, a Burnettsfield Patentee in 1725.

Peter Passage

Peter Passage⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born January 12, 1812 in Herkimer County. He died April 6, 1906, at Dalton, N. Y., aged 94 years. He married Harriet Ward of Columbia, Herkimer County. She was born October 2, 1817 and was the daughter of Abraham Ward and his first wife Rosanna Earnest. Abraham Ward was the son of Aaron Ward and his wife Elizabeth Wendell and was born November 20, 1790, at Lansingburg, N. Y. Harriet Ward died July 27, 1894, aged 77 years.

Peter Passage purchased a tract of land near Nunda, N. Y., in January, 1838. After his marriage in 1842 he shipped his furniture by canal boat to Rochester and from that place hauled it to Nunda by team, a distance of nearly fifty miles. Very little of the timber had been cut from his farm, the region thereabouts being in a wild and unsettled condition. Two log cabins were erected and in one of these he and his young wife began housekeeping, living in it for four years. He then built a substantial frame house, which is still in a good state of preservation.

Peter Passage and his wife Harriet Ward were the parents of four children:

1. Walter, who died July 13, 1860, aged 18 years.
2. George Earnest, born March 30, 1843.
3. Rosanna, born June 30, 1844.
4. Ward, born August 28, 1846.

George E. Passage

George Earnest Passage⁶, Peter Passage⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Adam

F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born March 30, 1843. Died September 16, 1912. He married Charlotte Lyon.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Lewis L., born March 16, 1875. He married March 16, 1899, Grace Prym.
8. Flinn L., born February 21, 1877. He married July 14, 1908, Mary Taylor. Now living at Gowanda, N. Y. One child.
3. Neal, born October 27, 1879. Died April 29, 1896.
4. Don L., born August 30, 1881. He married September 24, 1907, Luella M. Glor, who was born May 30, 1882.

Rosanna Passage

Rosanna Passage⁶, Peter⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born June 30, 1844, at Dalton, N. Y. She died April 16, 1922. She married February 23, 1868, Harrison Collins (or Colton) of Nunda, N. Y.

They were the parents of two children:

1. Walter C., born July 27, 1873.
2. Harriet, born July 14, 1878.

Ward Passage

Ward Passage⁶, Peter⁵, Margaret⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹ was born August 28, 1846. Died March 26, 1929 at Seattle, Wash. He married in June, 1866 Emma Coon of Undahl, Jackson County, Wisconsin. Emma Coon died March 31, 1885 at Walla Walla, Washington.

They were the parents of five children:

1. Ray Herbert, born August 31, 1872, at Dalton, N. Y. He married October 19, 1892 Emma Smith. Four children, May E., born Aug. 20, 1893, Edith born March 8, 1895. Margaret born February 2, 1897 and Ruth J., born July 1, 1899.

2. Harriet Mary, born May 23, 1876 at Grove, N. Y. She married Ome Reid.

3. Albert J., born January 11, 1879 at Rice Lake, Minnesota. Lived in New York city about 1926.

4. Peter Ward, born April 15, 1881. Living in Minnesota.

5. Jennie Bell, born August 25, 1885 at Walla Walla, Washington. She married June 22, 1904 Clinton R. Nelson.

Don L. Passage

Don L. Passage⁷, George R.⁶, Peter⁵, Margaret Helmer⁴, Adam F.³, Frederick², Philip¹, was born August 30, 1881. He married September 24, 1907 Luella M. Glor, born May 30, 1882. They are now living at Attica, N. Y.

They were the parents of six children:

1. Frederick Glor, born October 29, 1909.

2. Neil George, born January 29, 1912.

3. Doris Luella, born September 12, 1913.

4. Rollins (twin), born August 20, 1916. Died August 20, 1916.

5. Robert (twin) born August 20, 1916. Died August 20, 1916.

6. Don L., Jr., born July 17, 1924.

CHAPTER XXVIII

Frederick A. Helmer in the Revolution

Additional Descendants

In Chapter VII. appeared the record of Frederick A. Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹, born August 16, 1725, who married Barbara Elizabeth Homan.

The following are additional descendants:

Catharine Helmer

Catharine Helmer⁵, Conrad⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, was born March 24, 1801. She was confirmed

as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church September 17, 1815, at the age of 14 years.

In Chapter VII it was stated there was no further record. Additional information has been received that she married Jacob Wollaber⁴, Nicholas³, Peter², Nicholas¹.

They were the parents of a daughter:

1. Mary E. who married John Alonzo Fulmer.

Mary E. Wollaber

Mary E. Wollaber⁶, Catharine Helmer⁵, Conrad⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, married John Alonzo Fulmer, son of David Fulmer and his wife Mary Schell.

Mary E. Wollaber and her husband John Alonzo Fulmer were the parents of three children:

1. Milton J.

2. Emma A., who married Rev. Charles L. Peck.

3. Mary C, who married (1st) Hugh Fordyce and (2nd) Rev William H. Giles.

Mary C. Fulmer

Mary C. Fulmer⁷, Mary A. Wollaber⁶, Catharine Helmer⁵, Conrad⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, married (1st) Hugh Fordyce and (2nd) Rev. William H. Giles and is now living at Auburn, N. Y.

Children by the first marriage:

1. Grace A.

2. Wesley, who married Marguerite Ottman and is now living at Nantucket, Mass.

John R. Helmer

John R. Helmer⁶, Henry A.⁵, Adam⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, was born May 7, 1828, near Jordanville, Herkimer County, N. Y. He died at Clinton, Wisconsin, July 1, 1918,

at the age of 90 years and was buried at Clinton. He married (1st) Helen M. Osborn of Richfield Springs, N. Y. who died December 4, 1886. He married (2nd) Mrs. Clara Morey Edwards who is now living at Everett, Washington.

John R. Helmer and his first wife Helen M. Osborn were the parents of three children:

1. Frederick R., born May 11, 1859.
2. Grace Ellen, born March 25, 1861. Died March 28, 1873.
3. Eugenia Helen, born February 16, 1867. Died January 17, 1886.

Frederick R. Helmer

Frederick R. Helmer⁷, John R.⁶, Henry A.⁵, Adam⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, was born May 11, 1859 at Fulton, Wisconsin. He married (1st) Charlotte E. Cronkrite, born August 17, 1869, who died March 11, 1915. He married (2nd) Lillian Schuenke. They are now living at Clinton, Wisconsin.

Frederick R. Helmer and his first wife Charlotte Cronkrite were the parents of three children:

1. Helen G., born January 25, 1887.
2. Grace C., born August 24, 1888.
3. John Horatio, born January 29, 1895.

Helen G. Helmer

Helen G. Helmer⁸, Frederick R.⁷, John R.⁶, Henry A.⁵, Adam⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹ was born January 25, 1887, at Clinton, Wisconsin. She married Edward O. Scriven. They are now living in New York city.

No children.

Grace C. Helmer

Grace C. Helmer⁸, Frederick R.⁷, John R.⁶, Henry A.⁵, Adam⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, was born August 24, 1888. She married Knute

Tillotson. They are now living in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They are the parents of two children:

1. Helen Gene, born January 21, 1919.
2. John Frederick, born July 1, 1921.

John H. Helmer

John Horatio Helmer⁸, Frederick R.⁷, John R.⁶, Henry A.⁵, Adam⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹, was born January 29, 1895. He married Dorothy Paul Smith. They are now living at Evanston, Illinois.

They are the parents of two children:

1. Dorothy Joan, born August 24, 1923. Died January 17, 1931.
2. John Coville, born November 18, 1926.

CHAPTER XXIX

Descendants of Elizabeth Helmer and Thomas Getman

Elizabeth Helmer was born about 1753. Died October 6, 1837. She married Thomas Getman, born November 15, 1752. Died December 25, 1820. Both are buried in the family plot on the Getman Homestead at Ephratah.

Thomas Getman was a son of Captain George Getman and Delia Schumacher. Captain George Getman served in the French and Indian War under Sir William Johnson, and was the son of John Frederick Getman and his wife Miss Buerman, daughter of Johannes Buerman, a Burnettsfield Patentee in 1725. Delia Schumacher, the wife of Captain George Getman, was the daughter of John Schumacher of Stone Arabia.

The parentage of Elizabeth Helmer is unknown. She was probably the daughter of Godfrid Helmer³, Lendert², Philip¹. (See Chapter V.)

Elizabeth Helmer and her husband Thomas Getman were the parents of four children:

1. Catherine, who married Richard Suts.
2. George T., born January 1, 1774. Died June 23, 1834. Married Margaret Cook.
3. John.
4. Thomas, Jr., who married Elizabeth Schell (Shull or Shutt).

George T. Getman

George T. Getman, son of Thomas Getman and Elizabeth Helmer, was born January 1, 1774. He died June 23, 1834. He married Margaret Cook.

They were the parents of seven children:

1. Casper, born February 2, 1799, who married Elizabeth Bauder.
2. Robert, born May 4, 1805, who married Lucy Young.
3. John.
4. Thomas.
5. Catherine.
6. Elizabeth.
7. Hannah.

Thomas Getman, Jr.

Thomas Getman, Jr., son of Thomas Getman and Elizabeth Helmer, married Elizabeth Schell (Shull or Shutt). Births of their children are found in the Stone Arabia Lutheran Church

They were the parents of three sons:

1. Volkert, born January 30, 1801. Sponsors Gaisbot Polman and Catharina ———.
2. Archibald, born March 17, 1805. Sponsors John Nellis and his wife.
3. Thomas, who married Nancy Best. One son: Adam who married Helen Moyer.

Casper Getman

Casper Getman, son of George T. Getman and Margaret Cook, was born February 2, 1799. He married Elizabeth Bauder.

They were the parents of four children:

1. George, who married (1st) Margaret Dillenbeck and (2nd) Elizabeth Reed.
2. Lucinda, who married Christopher Schultz.
3. Katherine, who married Lisan-der Kilts.
4. Ervin, born about 1834, died in 1879, who married Ruby Claus.

Robert Getman

Robert Getman, son of George T. Getman and Margaret Cook, was born May 4, 1805. Died March 4, 1872. Married June 1, 1828, Lucy Young, who was born August 23, 1808 and died March 12, 1872.

They were the parents of nine children:

1. Darius, born January 1, 1829.
2. Thomas, born February 10, 1831.
3. Mary E., born February 21, 1833. Died October 22, 1833.
4. George, born July 31, 1835.
5. Joshua, born May 23, 1836.
6. Elizabeth, born October 23, 1839.
7. Aaron, born June 4, 1841. Lived at Fonda, N. Y.
8. Laney A., born July 10, 1843.
9. Nancy Catherine, born September 15, 1845

Volkert Getman

Volkert Getman, son of Thomas Getman, Jr., and his wife Elizabeth Schell (Shull or Shutt), was born January 30, 1801. He died in 1884. He married Margaret Flanders.

They were the parents of seven children:

1. Christopher, who married Mercy Ann Blodgett.

2. Abner, who married Althea Vincent.

3. Martin, who never married.

4. William, who married McMahon.

5. Mary, who married Duane Cross.

6. Elizabeth, who married Hiram Kellogg.

7. Catherine.

George Getman

George Getman, son of Casper Getman and Elizabeth Bauder, was born about 1825 to 1830. He married (1st) Margaret Dillenbeck and (2nd) Elizabeth Reed.

Six children by the first marriage:

1. Samantha, who married R. Bloss.

2. Alva.

3. Casper, who married and had two children: George H. and Magdalena.

4. Arvilina.

5. Emma who married Clark Young.

6. Byron L., who married Emma Borden.

One child by the second marriage:

7. Eliza A., who married Myron Saltsman.

Thomas Getman

Thomas Getman, son of Robert Getman and Lucy Young, was born February 10, 1831. Died June 8, 1914. Married October 25, 1852, Alida Vrooman, born May 21, 1832. Died January 10, 1917.

They were the parents of eight children:

1. Robert, born August 14, 1853.

2. Martin, born March 19 1855.

3. Anna M., born July 8, 1857.

4. Henry H., born April 23, 1863.

5. Volkert L., born August 11, 1865.

6. Charles, born August 24, 1867. Died April 12, 1883.

7. Sidney, born May 1, 1870.

8. Sarah M., born April 27, 1873.

Christopher Getman

Christopher Getman, son of Volkert Getman and Margaret Flanders, was born about 1826. Died in 1901. He married Mercy Ann Blodgett and lived at Chaumont, N. Y.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Adelbert, who married Emma Ryder and lived at Chaumont, N. Y. One daughter: Minnie R., who married Homer F. Horton.

2. William, who married Laura Winch. One son Howard.

3. Maralotte, who married Clayton Rogers and lived at Clayton, N. Y.

Abner Getman

Abner Getman, son of Volkert Getman and Margaret Flanders, married Althea Vincent.

They were the parents of two children:

1. Duane.

2. Myra, who marriedHumes-ton. Two children: Clarence and Lyle.

William Getman

William Getman, son of Volke. Getman and Margaret Flanders marriedMcMahon.

They were the parents of two children:

1. Charles, who married and had two children: Olive and Ruth.

2. Irene, who married James Morgan.

Mary Getman

Mary Getman, daughter of Volkert Getman and Margaret Flanders, married Duane Cross.

They were the parents of one son:

1. James.

Elizabeth Getman

Elizabeth Getman, daughter of Volkert Getman and Margaret Flanders, married Hiram Kellogg.

They were the parents of one daughter:

1. Mercy Ann.

Samantha Getman

Samantha Getman, daughter of George Getman and Margaret Dillenbeck, married R. Bloss.

They were the parents of six children:

1. Margaret.
2. George A.
3. Bertha.
4. Alva.
5. Zoe.
6. John.

Emma Getman

Emma Getman, daughter of George Getman and Margaret Dillenbeck, married Clark Young.

They were the parents of a daughter.

1. Lina, who married Dr. Rathben.

Byron L. Getman

Byron L. Getman, son of George Getman and Margaret Dillenbeck, married Emma Borden and is now living at Gloversville, N. Y.

They are the parents of two children:

1. Borden.
2. Myrtle, who married a Mr. Ecker.

Eliza A. Getman

Eliza A. Getman, daughter of Geo. Getman and his second wife Elizabeth Reed, married Myron Saltsman.

They were the parents of nine children:

1. Jeremiah.
2. George.
3. Douglas.
4. Carlton.
5. Iantha.
6. Gladys.
7. Burdette.
8. Donald.
9. Herbert.

Anna M. Getman

Anna M. Getman, daughter of Thomas Getman and Alida Vrooman was born July 8, 1857. Died January 30, 1911. She married December 18, 1879 John H. Dockstader, born January 17, 1856.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Edward, born May 31, 1883. Died August 12, 1884.

2. Lillian A., born June 11, 1886, who married May 23, 1906, William T. Van Dusen, born July 16, 1881. They are now living at Fonda, N. Y.

3. Gertrude H., born April 2, 1889. She married September 15, 1910 Fred E. Snyder. Two children Richard Earl, born November 27, 1914 and Betty Arline, born September 11, 1920.

CHAPTER XX

Jacob Helmer of Manheim

Jacob Helmer³, Frederick², Philip¹, was one of the five sons of Frederick Helmer and his wife Maria Barbara Kast, Burnettsfield Patentees. In Chapter X the name of four sons of this family were given. Since that article appeared the name of another son Jacob has been found. This still leaves three daughters of this family whose names are unknown.

However, it is believed that Anna Maria who married Peter Hoyer in June, 1750 was one of these daughters. Her record will be given in a later chapter.

Jacob Helmer settled in what is now the Town of Manheim at or near Brocketts Bridge, now called Dolgeville. No record of his marriage has been obtained. He was probably the ancestor of the branch of Helmers living in the vicinity of Manheim and Dolgeville. Philip Helmer of Manheim mentioned in Chapter XXII was

probably a son of this Jacob Helmer, but additional information is necessary to definitely establish that fact. It is earnestly urged that anyone having old Bible records will forward them for publication in order to complete this branch of the Helmer family.

The Settlement at Manheim

The first settlements in the Town of Manheim were made by Germans, probably in about the year 1736. During the Revolution these settlements were frequently attacked by the Indians and were mostly destroyed. The first church built in 1774 or 1775 was burned during the Revolution and was rebuilt soon after. During the Revolution the town was deserted by all but Tories.

Helmers Not Identified

The following list of persons by the name of Helmer have been gathered from various sources, but sufficient information has not been obtained to prove their relationship with other members of the family.

Adam Helmer of Fort Plain

Adam Helmer and his wife Cornelia Backer lived in the vicinity of Fort Plain between the years 1801 and 1805. The records of the births of the following children are found in the Fort Plain church, names of sponsors not being given.

1. Philip, born Oct. 12, 1801.
2. John, born January 20, 1805.

Adam Helmer of Herkimer

Adam Helmer and his wife Eva Schumacher lived in the vicinity of Herkimer about the years 1805 to 1810. The records of the births of several of their children are found in the Herkimer Reformed Church.

Query—Was he the son of Lieut.

George F. mentioned in Chapter XII?

Children:

1. Han Thomas, who married May 21, 1820 Hannah (Anna) Helmer, who was born September 5, 1795. Hannah Helmer's ancestry was Adam⁴, Frederick A.³, Adam², Philip¹. (See Chapter VII).

2. Johannes (John), born March 19, 1805. Sponsors Joe Shumacher and Catharine, his wife.

3. John Frederick, born about 1810. He married January 30, 1834 Elsy Swope, daughter of John Frederick Swope and his wife Adriane Witmuch. Witnesses at the marriage were John Helmer and Timothy Helmer, brothers of the groom.

4. Timothy.

Anna Maria Helmer

Anna Maria Helmer married in June, 1750 Peter Hoyer and lived in Herkimer county. Peter Hoyer was a soldier in the Revolution.

Anna Maria Helmer was probably one of the eight children of Frederick Helmer, Burnettsfield Patentee, and his wife Maria Barbara Kast, daughter of Johann George Kast and his wife Anna.

The will of Johann George Kast mentioned the eight children of Frederick Helmer and his daughter Maria Barbara Kast, but did not give their names. Further information from old Bible or other records will be necessary to definitely place their parentage.

If Anna Maria Helmer was the daughter of Frederick Helmer, Patentee, then she would have been named after her grandmother Anna, wife of Johann George Kast and her mother Maria Barbara Kast, the wife of Frederick Helmer.

Catherine Helmer

Catherine Helmer, daughter of Philip, married September 19, 1786, at German Flatts, Jacob Kraus (also spelled Grass) and lived in the vicinity of Palatine about 1789 to 1793. The records of the births of the following children are found in the St. Johnsville church:

1. George, born September 20, 1789. Sponsors George Helmer and Catherine Hess.
2. Jacob, Jr., born January 7, 1793. Sponsors Jacob Helmer and Anna Fox.

Daniel Helmer

Daniel Helmer married Elizabeth Hilts and lived in the vicinity of Herkimer about 1799 to 1803. The births of their children are found in the Herkimer Reformed Church:

1. Elizabeth, born about 1799. Confirmed as a member of the Herkimer Reformed Church September 12, 1819, at the age of 20 years.
2. Maria, born September 25, 1803. Sponsors Joe. Nicholas Hilts and Susanna Miller, his wife.

Elizabeth Helmer of Fonda

Elizabeth Helmer married Frederick Cash (Cast?). The record of one child is found in the Caughnawaga Church:

1. Anna, born September 8, 1774. Sponsors Johannes Neef and Anna Neef.

Elizabeth Helmer of German Flatts

Elizabeth Helmer, daughter of Philip, was born about 1765. She married October 12, 1784 Frederick Baum (his second wife), a soldier of the Revolution. The record of their marriage is found in the German Flatts Reformed Church.

No record of children.

Elizabeth Helmer of Fort Plain

Elizabeth Helmer married about 1790 Anthony Stall (Stahl) and lived in the vicinity of Fort Plain from 1790 to 1808. The record of their marriage and births of five children are found in the Fort Plain and Caughnawaga (Fonda) Churches.

Children:

1. Peter, born June 5, 1795. Sponsors Lawrence Backer and Elizabeth Backer.
2. Catharine, born March 10, 1798.
3. Philip, born July 3, 1800.
4. Margaret, born June 3, 1803.
5. John, born September 8, 1808.

Elizabeth Helmer of Stone Arabia

Elizabeth Helmer married November 18, 1815 Isaac Schutt. They lived at Stone Arabia.

No record of children.

Frederick P. Helmer

Frederick P. Helmer was twice married, both marriages being recorded in the Herkimer Reformed Church. He lived at Little Falls.

He married (1st) Maria Casler, born February 21, 1800 who died October 21, 1832.

He married (2nd) Dec. 24, 1833, Anna Eva Casler, daughter of Richard Casler and his wife Margaret..... Anna Eva Casler (also called Eva) was born about 1806, and died January 26, 1835, at the birth of her first child.

Frederick P. Helmer and his second wife Eva Casler were the parents of one child:

1. Anna Eva, born January 26, 1835. Died July 3, 1835.

Jacob Helmer

Jacob Helmer married Mary Ann Folts, daughter of Marks Folts and Elizabeth Sparks.

No children.

James Helmer

James Helmer married Catharine (Cady) Service and lived in the vicinity of Fort Plain about 1799 to 1801. The records of births of two children are found in the Fort Plain Church, names of sponsors not given:

1. Elizabeth, born February 21, 1799.
2. Peter, born June 27, 1801.

Jenny Helmer

Jenny Helmer, daughter of Philip J. Helmer and his wife Elizabeth Harris, was born February 25, 1760. She married Charles Cady and lived in the vicinity of Fonda. The record of her birth and those of her children are found in the Caughnawaga (Fonda) and Geisenberg Churches. Jenny Helmer's name was also spelled Anna or Janatye.

Jenny Helmer and her husband Charles Cady were the parents of six children:

1. Sarah, born May 7, 1778. Sponsors John Berns and Lena Helmer.
2. Susanna, born March 7, 1780. Sponsors Adam Rees and Susanna Fyles.
3. John, born July 6, 1782. Sponsors William Sobel and Mary Sobel.
4. Philip, born May 15, 1786. Sponsors Philip Helmer and Elizabeth Helmer, the grandparents.
5. Lena, born September 18, 1792. Sponsors John Montgomery and Lena Montgomery.
6. Abigail, born August 15, 1794. Sponsors Charles Cady and Jenny his wife, parents.

Johannes Helmer, of German Flatts

Johannes (John) Helmer married Maria..... and lived in the vicinity of German Flatts about 1779.

They were the parents of one son:

1. Adam, born June 6, 1779. Sponsors Adam Vorrer and Margaret.....

John Helmer of Palatine

John Helmer, son of Philip, married Anna Dusler and lived in the vicinity of Palatine about 1789. He was probably one of the Loyalists who went to Canada during the Revolution and later returned to Palatine.

They were the parents of one daughter:

1. Anna, born December 23, 1789. Sponsors Jacob I. Klock and Anna Klock.

John Helmer of Herkimer

John Helmer, son of Adam, was a witness January 30, 1834, at Herkimer at the marriage of his brother John Frederick Helmer and Elsy Swope.

No record of his marriage or children.

Leonard Helmer of Stone Arabia

Leonard Helmer (probably the son of Adam², Philip¹) married Catharine Zimmerman about 1750. They lived in the vicinity of Stone Arabia. He was a private in the Tryon County Militia, Second Regiment, commanded by Colonel Klock. (See Chapter IV).

They were the parents of one son:

1. Johann Leonhardt (Leonard L., Jr.) born August 8, 1752. Sponsors Leonhardt Helmer and Elizabeth (Ruhl?) his wife. Leonard L. Helmer was a private in the Tryon County Militia, Second Regiment, commanded by Colonel Klock.

Leonard Helmer of Kringsbush

Leonard Helmer who resided at Kringsbush was twice married. Just what relationship he was to other members of the Helmer family has not been determined. The name of his first wife is not known. His second wife was a widow of Philip Hel-

mer, the Tory, and her maiden name was Bellinger.

Leonard Helmer of Stone Arabia

Leonard Helmer lived in the vicinity of Stone Arabia from 1778 to 1792. He married Elizabeth Kock (Cook). The births of four children are found in the Stone Arabia Reformed Church:

1. John, born February 9, 1778. Sponsors Severinus Kock and Elizabeth Finck.
2. Rudolph, born March 30, 1780. Sponsors Rudolph Kock and Maria Schell.
3. Anna, born October 14, 1787. Sponsors Casper Kock and Catharine, his wife.
4. Henry, born May 3, 1792. Sponsors Jacob Getman and Catharine Getman.

Magdalena Helmer

Magdalena Helmer married Marcus Lies about 1760 and lived in the vicinity of Fonda. The record of the birth of a daughter is found in the Caughnawaga (Fonda) Church:

1. Lena, born September 18, 1762. Sponsors James Schoolcraft and his wife.

Maria Helmer

Maria Helmer, daughter of Daniel Helmer and Elizabeth Hilts, was born September 25, 1803, at Herkimer. She married September 25, 1822, at Herkimer, Frederick F. Miller, the son of Frederick Miller and Catharine Cristman.

No record of children.

Mary Helmer

Mary Helmer of Herkimer married

N. M. Hutton. They had one daughter:

1. Susan, who was twice married. Her first husband's name is not known. She married (2nd) July 4, 1823, Oliver Arnold, a widower, the son of Job Arnold and Hannah Dexter, his wife.

Philip J. Helmer of Fonda

Philip J. Helmer, son of John, married Elizabeth Harris before 1760. Records of the births of two of their children are found in the Caughnawaga (Fonda) Church:

1. Jenny (Jannetye), born February 25, 1760. Sponsors Jacob Harris and Cataleyntje Harris. Jenny Helmer married Charles Cady. Her children have been previously mentioned in this chapter.

2. Aaron, born August 9, 1775.

Philip Helmer

Philip Helmer married Margaret They were the parents of two daughters:

1. Delia (twin), born April 20, 1769. Sponsors Sophia Pier and Jacob Kraus.
2. Margretha (twin), born April 20, 1769. Sponsors Elizabeth Helmer and Dietrich Merkel.

Philip Helmer of Seneca County

Philip Helmer (wife's name not known) settled in the Town of Tyre, Seneca County, N. Y., about 1820 to 1840.

Children, seven sons and two daughters:

1. Isaac.
2. Jacob.
3. Philip.
4. David.
5. Jackson, who went to California

in 1850 in search of gold and died there.

6. Abraham.

7. George.

8. Louisa.

9. Margaret.

Jacob Helmer of Wayne County

Jacob Helmer (son of Philip) married Rhoda and settled in Wayne County, N. Y. He was killed by the fall of a tree and left seven small children, the eldest being about 14 years of age.

His widow Rhoda died several years ago at the age of 96 years at the home of her daughter Jenetta in Hastings, Michigan.

Jacob Helmer and his wife Rhoda were the parents of seven children:

1. Oliver M., who lived at Savannah, Georgia.
2. Charles, who had two daughters.
3. L. (initials only were given) who had a son living in Michigan.
4. Emily who married and had two sons living in Syracuse, N. Y. also two daughters.
5. Washington.
6. James.

7. Jenetta, who lived at Hastings, Michigan.

David Helmer of Seneca County

David Helmer, son of Philip, lived in Seneca County, N. Y. His wife's name was Delia

They were the parents of three daughters:

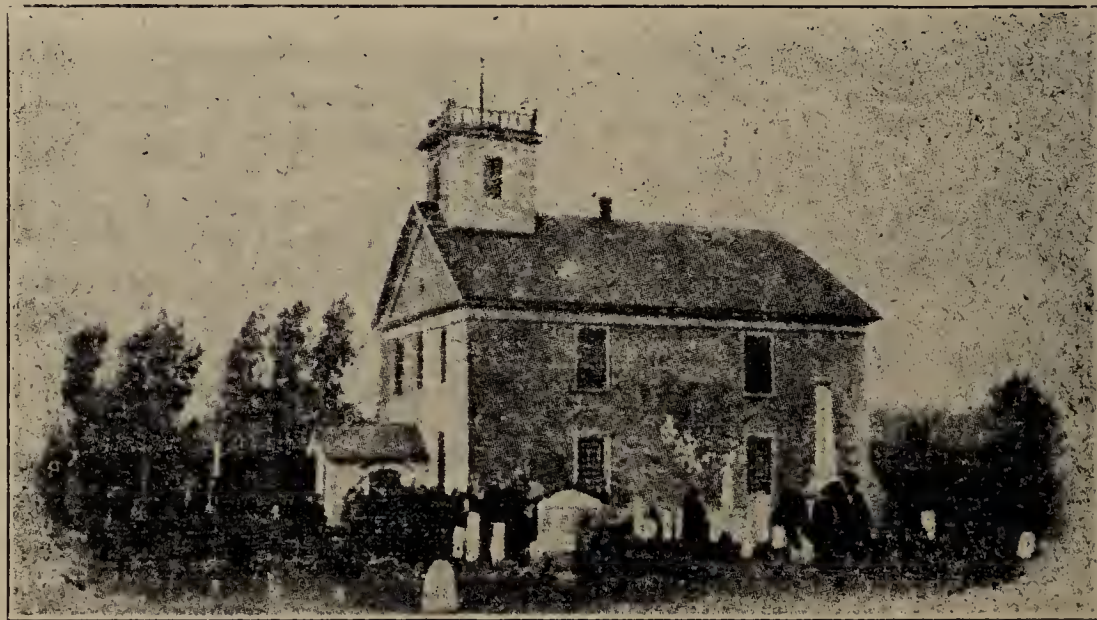
1. Mary.
2. Julia.
3. Sally.

Oliver M. Helmer

Oliver M. Helmer, son of Jacob Helmer and his wife Rhoda and grandson of Philip Helmer, married Sarah Oliver M. Helmer enlisted in 1862 in the Civil War and was wounded twice. At one time he lived in Savannah, Georgia.

Oliver M. Helmer and his wife Sarah were the parents of three children:

1. Selden, who lived in Auburn, N. Y. and had two children.
2. George, who lived in Savannah, Ga. and had two daughters.
3. Edith, who lived in Savannah, Ga. and had one son.



OLD FORT HERKIMER CHURCH, STILL STANDING

Within these walls the Helmers have worshipped, loved, mourned and shed their blood in defense of the beautiful valley where the first Philip founded the Helmer Family of America.

CHAPTER XXI

The Line of Aaron Helmer

The following sketch was copied from a note book written many years ago by Nancy Margaret Helmer, born February 2, 1834, who married October 24, 1855, William Folts. She died about 1930 at the age of 96 years. The notebook is owned by her daughter Mrs. Lester G. Helmer now living at Kast Bridge.

Aaron Helmer

Aaron Helmer, son of Timothy Helmer, wished to see the world and left his home February 23, 1853. His experiences would fill a volume, but he was very reticent in regard to relating his adventures, and we learned only by questioning what is related here.

He sailed from New York city and went by water around Cape Horn, and after many storms and delays reached San Francisco and Sacramento and thence after a while in Mexico and New Mexico. There he enlisted in the standing army on the frontier in which he served five years.

The Pony Express

It was while doing duty there that he served as mail carrier in what was called the "Pony Express," a very hazardous and perilous piece of work. He carried the United States mail over mountains, through ravines and plains and was liable at any time to encounter marauding Indians or savage beasts, both of which were numerous at that time on the route he had to travel.

One time his pony threw him and ran away with the mail and he pursued it over the mountains two or three days before he caught and

found it and delivered the precious mail all right, determined to save it if he died in accomplishing it.

He had another adventure with his pony in carrying the mail. It was a very dark night. He journeyed nights as well as during daylight and his pony saw what he did not and refused to go any further. He was obliged to dismount and lead the pony through what proved to have been a battleground of the Indians and was strewn with the bodies of about thirty dead Indians, over which he was obliged to pick his way clinging tightly to the bridle of his pony, which snorted, reared and plunged determined to get away from that horror as quickly as possible.

The Overland Journey

In the spring of 1860 he started with his wife and two children for the east in high hopes of showing his little family, of whom he was very fond and proud of, to his mother soon.

He took the overland route as customary at those times by people who came east and considered safest and best as the Indians were quite troublesome at that time and most people traveled that way.

But in crossing the plains in June misfortune overtook him and his little three year old daughter Marie sickened and died and was buried near Wagon Mound, Nebraska. They were obliged to move on and leave her in that desolate country alone.

They continued their lonely journey east when again sickness and death visited them, taking their baby William, seven months of age. They buried him in St. Louis, Missouri, where they had tarried while he was sick.

Full of grief he made another attempt to start for home with his wife

who was sick and heart broken over the loss of their children. But they only proceeded as far as Alton, Illinois when she became so ill, he again halted hoping to rest there while she might recover.

But there is no cure for a broken heart, and after about ten days she rejoined her children. He then returned to St. Louis with her remains and laid her to rest beside her youngest child in a Catholic cemetery. Thus he was bereft of his whole family in about six weeks, his first child having passed away in June, his little son in July and Marie, his wife, died August 1, 1860, aged 25 years. This I learned by seeing his diary after his death in which he had made these entries. No one knows with what a sorrowful heart he pursued his way to his former home, which he left about seven and one half years before, for he was a man of but few words.

He reached Herkimer August 24, 1860, so thin and pale, but a shadow of his former self, but had a good constitution and after being home a while his health improved.

The Civil War

He enlisted in the United States service again at the breaking out of the Civil War. Fort Sumter was bombarded. He went to Herkimer to see his mother and hear the news of "what the Secessionists were doing." When he returned at night he had enlisted in a company of volunteers under James A. Suiter, a veteran of the Mexican war. After him there were fifteen others volunteered the same day.

His brother Sanford enlisted in the same company. Another brother Jerry enlisted and was in the same brigade as the 34th Regiment.

Three Helmer Brothers at the Battle of Antietam

The three Helmer brothers were all together in the morning of September 17, 1862 and were together on the battlefield in their usual health but when night came, Jerry was wounded and taken to a place where the wounded would be attended to.

Aaron was missing, but his brother Sanford was determined to learn his fate. That night before he slept Sanford with some comrades found where the battle was the hottest, the lifeless body of his brother Aaron with a minnie ball through his forehead which he received facing the foe.

What a terrible finding; how can we picture the sorrow and anguish of that brother. He was buried in a trench with others by the side of Sergt. Mead, his grave being marked. The following winter February 6, 1863, his remains were brought home to Herkimer by his brother Sanford, a funeral held, and the sermon delivered by Professor Cockran of Fairfield Academy.

A sketch of his life and his adventures and services in the Grand Army of the Potomac was given by the Rev. Gardner. It was very touching and eloquent. There were not many dry eyes in that large congregation that filled to overflowing the Reformed Church at Herkimer. He was buried beside his father in the cemetery which is now "Myers Park" and a suitable stone erected to his memory bearing this inscription:

'Here rests a soldier and trusted friend Sergt. Aaron Helmer, Co. G. 34th Regt. N. Y. S. Vols, son of Timothy and Catharine Helmer, born April 13, 1830, killed at the Battle of Antietam Sept 17, 1862.'

A Lieutenant's Commission was on

its way to him before the battle, but it arrived too late for him.

The Aaron Helmer Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Herkimer, was named in his honor.

Nicholas Kessler (Casler)

A correction

In Chapter VIII of the Helmer Family was given the marriage May 10, 1763 of Gertrude Helmer (daughter of Adam) to John Kessler (Casler). There was also given a list of the children among them being Johann Nicolaus (Nicholas) born March 5, 1764. It was stated that this Nicholas Kessler married Gertrude Bellinger.

This was an error. Nicholas Kessler, born March 5, 1764, married Catherine Tousick.

There were two men of the same name of Nicholas Kessler. Considerable confusion has arisen in the records of these men on account of the similarity of names. It was Nicholas Kessler, son of Jacob, who married Gertrude Bellinger. Nicholas Kessler, son of John, married Catherine Tousick.

Names of additional children of Gertrude Helmer and John Kessler are given below, together with a corrected record of their son Nicholas.

Gertrude Helmer

Gertrude Helmer³, Adam², Philip¹, married May 10, 1763, John Kessler (Casler), who was a baker in the Revolution.

They were the parents of seven children:

1. Johann Nicolaus (Nicholas) born March 5, 1764. Married 1799 Catherine Tousick.

2. Johann Adam (Adam) born October 7, 1765. Married 1792 Maria Sitts.

3. Johannes (John) born January 14, 1768.

4. Jacob born February 15, 1770, married Nancy Sitts.

5. Catherine born February 16, 1770.

6. Philip born May 29, 1777, married Maria

7. Anna born May 16, 1779, married Henry Bush.

Nicholas Kessler

Nicholas (Johann Nicholas) Kessler⁴, Gertrude³, Adam², Philip¹, was born March 5, 1764. Married May 5, 1799, Catherine Tousick, born January 20, 1769.

They were the parents of six children:

1. Elizabeth born January 1, 1800.

2. Catherine born February 24, 1802.

3. Leonah born December 6, 1803.

4. Hannah born April 27, 1806.

5. Daniel born October 16, 1809.

6. Sally born August 7, 1812.

ORISKANY

By Rev. Charles D. Helmer, D. D.

As men who fight for home and
child and wife,

As men oblivious of life,
In holy martyrdom.

The yeomen of the valley fought
that day,

Throughout the fierce and deadly fray
Blood-red Oriskany.

Heroes are born in such a chosen
hour;

O'er common men they rise and
tower;

Like thee, brave Herkimer!

Who wounded, steadfast, still beside
the beech

Cheered on thy men with sword and
speech

In grim Oriskany.

Helmer Pension Papers

Claim of Anna (Bellinger) Helmer, Widow of Adam Frederick Helmer, Revolutionary Scout and Ranger.

From photostat copies of the originals in Pension Bureau at Washington, furnished through courtesy of Henderson Chapter, D. A. R.

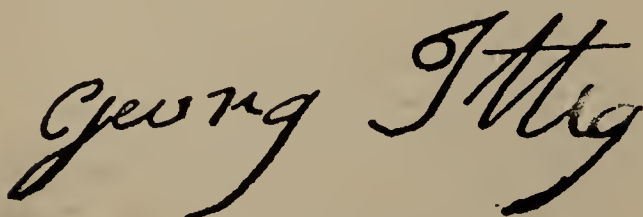
Orthography and sentence construction copied exactly as appears in originals now on file with the secretary of Henderson Chapter, D. A. R.

AFFADAVIT OF GEORGE ITTIG

State of New York, County of Onandaga, ss.

Nov. 13, 1837

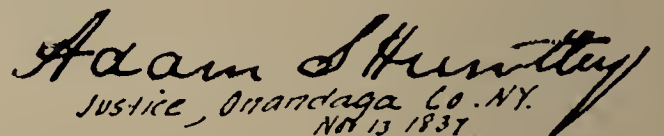
George Ittig of Manlius being duly sworn before Adam S. Huntley one of the Justice of Peace of the Town of Manlius and county aforesaid makes oath and says that he is eighty one years old last December that he was well acquainted with Adam Helmer before the revolutionary war. That in the year Seventeen hundred and Seventy-Eight this deponent was in the service of his country in a Company of Rangers a man by the name of Bigbread was Captain and the said Adam Helmer was Lieutenant and John Smith was Ensign his company during that Summer at Herkimer and vicinity; was dismissed on the first day of January in the morning: they had served nine months: the said Adam Helmer was Lieutenant during the nine months—He was acquainted with the said Adam Helmers wife; her name when a girl was Anna Bellinger—he knows of their living together as long back as Seventeen Seventy five or six and as late as about sixteen or eighteen years ago. It was the general understanding that they were married and further sayeth not.



GEORG ITTIG.

Subscribed and Sworn before me November 13, 1837, Adam S. Huntley, Justice.

I hereby certify that I have been acquainted with the above named George Ittig about twenty years and that he always has sustained a good moral character and is entitled to full credit.



Justice, Onandaga Co. N.Y.
Nov 13 1837

ADAM S. HUNTLEY,
Justice Peace, Nov. 13, 1837.

AFFADAVIT OF JOHN DOCKSTADER

Nov. 18, 1837

State of New York, Herkimer County, ss.

John Dockstader of Herkimer in the county of Herkimer being duly sworn before Nicholas Smith, Esquire a Justice of the Peace of the said Town and County aforesaid deposes and says that he is seventy-seven years that he has been acquainted with Adam Helmer now deceased from his youth; that he was acquainted with said Adam before and in and after the Revolutionary war. That in the said war the said Adam served as Lieutenant in a company of Rangers commanded by Captain Bigbread but this deponent does not remember the year in which he performed said service nor does he now remember how long he served in said Company; That while said Adam served in said company of Rangers

this deponent served in a Company of Militia commanded by Captain Henry Harter, Lieutenant John Demarett and Ensign Peter Weber that this deponent and the said Helmer were at the same Station at Fort Dayton at Herkimer and that whilst they were So there intelligence was received at said Fort that a party of Indians had taken prisoner a Mr. Frank on the Mohawk River near a place called Frankfort in Herkimer County. That on that occasion the said Adam Helmer and Capt. Bigbread and this deponent and some others went from Fort Dayton in pursuit of the Enemy and in the neighborhood of Frankfort fell in with a party of Indians and had a Skirmish with them wherein one of the Enemies Indians was killed and one of the party that accompanied his deponent was wounded of which wound he died the next day after the skirmish. That on that Occasion the Said Adam Helmer besides being actually engaged in the Said Skirmish after the said Indian was killed went in pursuit of a Tory who was also engaged who was flying for the distance of half a mile when he gave up the Chase and returned to our party.

That this Deponent has also been acquainted with Anna Helmer the widow of the Said Adam Helmer that the said Adam and the said Anna lived at Herkimer in the immediate neighborhood of this deponent after the war but when they were married or whether they were actually married this deponent does not know but from the fact that they were generally reputed to be married and from the fact of their living together as man and wife and having as such raised a family of Children and having never heard the fact of their marriage questioned or disputed this deponent believes and has no doubt that the said Adam Helmer & the said Anna Helmer were lawfully married and that the said Anna is the lawful widow of the Said Adam Helmer deceased.

Johnney Dockstader

JOHANNES DOCKSTADER.

Subscribed & Sworn to this 18th day of November, 1837 before me, Nicholas Smith, Justice.

And I the said Nicholas Smith the said Justice do hereby further certify that I have been acquainted with John Dockstader the person who has

signed & sworn the foregoing affidavit for forty years now past and that he has during the whole period sustained a good Moral character and a fair reputation and that his Statements are entitled to full faith credit.

Dated November 18th, 1837.

Nicholas Smith
Justice, Herkimer Co. Nov. 18 1837

Nicholas Smith Justice.

AFFADAVIT OF ANDREW PIPER

November 18, 1837

State of New York, Herkimer County, ss.

Andrew Piper of Frankfort in the Said County of Herkimer being duly sworn before Nicholas Smith one of the Justices of the Peace of the Town of Herkimer in the said County of Herkimer deposeseth & saith that he is seventy seven years of age that he was acquainted with Adam Helmer now deceased from his Infancy. That he was acquainted with Said Adam during the Revolutionary & subsequent to the said War and until his death which occurred several years ago. That in the year One thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy seven the said Adam Helmer served as a Lieutenant in A Company of Rangers which was commanded by one Bigbread whose given name as this deponent believes was John as Captain. The said Adam Helmer served therein as Lieutenant and John Smith was Ensign. That the said Company was organized and served for the period of nine months during the said year. That the said Company was raised on the Mohawk River then Tryon County in the State of New York being the District now comprising parts of Herkimer and Montgomery Counties; That the service of the Said Company of Rangers in which the said Adam served during the said year 1777 was rendered at Fort Dayton at Herkimer and in the vicinity of that place and at Oriskany and at Fort Stanwix above Herkimer on the Mohawk. That this Deponent during the said year 1777 served also at the said Forts Dayton & Stanwix in a Company of Militia commanded by Captain Frederick Getman 1st Lt. John Roof 2nd, Lieutenant Jacob Magee and Ensign John Magee. That whilst this deponent so served in said Company of Militia he repeatedly during that season saw the Adam Helmer in actual Service in the Said Company of Rangers and knows that he commanded as Lieutenant therein.

That the Company of Rangers and Militia in which this deponent and the said Adam served were both engaged in the Oriskany Battle when this deponent recollects distinctly seeing the said Adam Helmer in the ranks. That this deponent remembers also that the night previous to the engagement at Oriskany the said Adam Helmer & Marks D'muth and one Handyfoot Folts as this Depo-
 nent now remembers & believes were secretly dispatched to Col. Willett and Col. Gansbroadt in Fort Stanwix when they with some Troops were stationed and when at the time they were besieged by St. Leger and his army, to inform Colonels Willett and Gansbroadt of the approach of General Herkimer and which informance was the cause of the Sortie from Fort Stanwix by Col. Willett with a party of men and the attack upon the enemy whilst the engagement between General Herkimer and the enemy as the Oriskany Battle was going on. That besides the said services of the said Adam Helmer in the said Company of Rangers in the year 1777 he afterwards served in the Militia at Herkimer where this deponent also served, but this Deponent does not now remember any particular service under & by said Adam. And this deponent further saith that he has also been acquainted with Anna Helmer the widow of said Adam Helmer since he was a child that they were children together lived in the same neighborhood That the Maiden name of the said Anna is Bellinger and She was the daughter of Peter Bellinger with whom this deponent was also well acquainted that this deponent was also well acquainted with the Said Anna before her intermarriage with the said Adam Helmer. That the said Anna and the said Adam as the deponent now believes were married some time before the war although this deponent cannot state how long before. That this deponent did not attend the Solemonization of the Marriage nor does he know of said Marriage Except from heresay and report of the time and from the continual living together of the parties as man & wife in the neighborhood of this deponent and their raising a family of Children together.

Andrew x P

his
 ANDREW x PIPER,
 mark

Subscribed & sworn to this 18th

day of November 1837 before me.
 NICHOLAS SMITH, Justice.

And I the said Justice do hereby further Certify that I have been acquainted with Andrew Piper the person who has signed & sworn the foregoing affidavit for twenty five years now last past that he has the whole period sustained a good moral character and a fair reputation and that his statements are entitled to full faith and credit.

Dated November 28th, 1837.

NICHOLAS SMITH, J. P.

State of New York, Herkimer County, ss

I, John Dygert, Clerk of the said County of Herkimer do certify that Nicholas Smith, Esquire is a Justice of the Peace as within and that the within signature purporting to be his is genuine. In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my seal of office and subscribed my name this 18th day of November 1837.

E A Munson

E. A. MUNSON,
 Deputy for John Dygert, Clerk.

AFFADAVIT OF DOROTHY WOOL- IVEN

State of New York, Cortland County ss

Dorothy Wooliven of the Truxton in Cortland County being duly sworn Says that she is aged about eighty two years and is sister to Anna Helmer of Brutus in the County of Cayuga the widow of Adam Helmer late of Brutus aforesaid now deceased that she was present at the marriage of the said Adam Helmer & Anna Helmer and saw the ceremony performed. That the name of said Anna before said marriage was Anna Bellinger. That said Adam & Anna were lawfully married at the Church in what is now Herkimer in the County of Herkimer on or about the twenty seventh day of February 1776 by the Rev. Abraham Rosekrants. That she is not so positive about the precise day of February 1776 of the marriage but thinks it was on the said twenty seventh day.

And further deponent says that She recollects that said Adam Helmer was in service during the Revolutionary War but she does not remember

times with sufficient accuracy to testify to the time.

her

Dorothy X Wooliven
mark

DOROTHY x WOOLIVEN.

Mark

Sworn this 5th day of December, 1837 before me

Wm Blanchard
Justice, Cayuga Co. NY

WM. BLANCHARD,

Justice of the Peace.

I certify my opinion that said Dorothy Wooliven is a person of truth and veracity.

WM. BLANCHARD, J. P.

AFFADAVIT OF ANNA HELMER

Dec. 13, 1837

State of New York, Cayuga County, ss

On this fifteenth day of December 1837 personally appeared before John P. Hulbert one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Cayuga in said state Anna Helmer a resident of Brutus in said County aged eighty years who being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit on the pension made by the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836.

That she is the widow of Adam Helmer who was a lieutenant in the time of the Revolutionary war. That soon after the commencing of the Revolutionary war the said Adam Helmer enlisted or was enrolled in a Company of Rangers at what is now Herkimer in the County of Herkimer in said state of New York and continued to serve therein as Lieutenant in tours for and during a part of the war. That said Company was commanded by Captain Bigbroad, Lt. Adam Helmer and Ensign John Smith. That the said Company was organized in the fore part of the year 1777 entered active service and continued to serve a time of nine months in the neighborhood sometimes stationed at Fort Dayton and at other places to protect the inhabitants from the Indians.

That said Adam Helmer continued to serve during the whole term of nine months which ended late in the fall of the year aforesaid as she believes. That in the following winter, 1778 or spring the said Adam Helmer again entered service in the said

company and served another term of nine months at the same place which said tour ended on or about the first day of January one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine. She further says that in both of said tours the said Adam served as Lieutenant. She further that during the whole of said time said Adam Helmer lived in Herkimer aforesaid near Fort Dayton where the country was constantly kept in a state of alarm by the Indians and said Adam was kept in service almost the whole time but in consequence of age in failure of memory she is not able to specify any other tours of service than as above and she would not have been able to recollect so particularly about the above mentioned tours were it not for the assistance of the affidavits hereto annexed. That said Adam Helmer had a commission but the same is now lost or destroyed so she cannot produce it. That she has no record evidence of said service. That she was lawfully married to the said Adam Helmer at the Church in what is now called Herkimer on the twenty seventh day of February 1776 by the Rev. Abraham Rosecrants. That during said war the Church records owing to the alarm and state of the time were put together into a chest or box and the said chest or box was buried in the ground to keep it away from the enemy as she has been informed and believes and the said chest and its contents became wet and entirely destroyed so that all record of such marriage has been lost and she is unable to produce record of evidence of said marriage. That the said Abraham Rosecrants is dead and has been for many years and she has never obtained a certificate of said marriage. That the said Adam Helmer died in the month of April 1830 and that she has remained a widow ever since. As will more fully appear by the proof hereunto annexed.

Anna X Helmer
mark

her

ANNA x HELMER.

mark

Sworn and subscribed on the day and year first above written.

John P. Hulbert,

Judge of Court of Common Pleas, of the County of Cayuga.

I certify that said Anna Helmer is entitled to credit and that she is un-

able to attend court on account of age and extreme debility.

Dated Dec. 15th. 1837.

John P. Hulbert
Judge, Cayuga Co. Dec. 15 1837

JOHN P. HULBERT,
Judge of the Court of Common
Pleas of the County of Cayuga.

AFFADAVIT OF PETER HELMER
Dec. 13, 1835

State of New York, Cayuga County
ss:

Peter Helmer of Brutus in said County being duly sworn says that he is aged fifty one years and is the son of Adam & Anna Helmer, the said Adam being now deceased. The said Adam & Anna lived together as man and wife and raised a family of children of whom deponent is one. The said Adam died in the month of April, one thousand eight hundred and thirty leaving the said Anna his widow who has continued a widow ever since.

That the deponent has the family record of the said Adam Helmer by which it appears that the said Adam & Anna were lawfully married on twenty seventh day of February 1776. Which record also contains the names and births and deaths of their children.

And further the deponent saith not.

Peter Helmer

Sworn this 15th day of December before me John P. Hulbert, Judge of Court of Common Pleas of the County of Cayuga.

I certify my opinion that said Peter Helmer is a man of truth and veracity.

JOHN P. HULBERT,
Judge of the Court of Common
Pleas of the County of Cayuga.

State of New York, Cayuga County
ss:

I Michael S. Myers clerk of said County do hereby certify that John P. Hulbert Esquire before whom the accompanying declaration of Anna Helmer was made and before the accompanying affadavit of Peter Helmer was made and by whom the certificate accompanying said declaration and affadavit was made was on the day of the date of the same one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County that I am well acquainted with the hand writ-

ing of said judge and believe his signature to said documents affadavit and certificates to be genuine.

Witness my hand and seal of office the nineteenth day of December 1837.

M. S. Myers
Clerk, Cayuga Co. Dec 19 1837

M. S. MYERS, Clerk.

**LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY
OF THE STATE**

Secretary's Office
Albany, Jan. 22d, 1838.

Sir:

Your letter in relation to Adam Helmer was rcd. this day you say that in the year 1776 1778 1779 Adam Helmer belonged to and served in a company of Rangers in which a man named Big Bread was captain the said Adam was Lieutenant and one John Smith was Ensign.

I have carefully examined the records of this office and have not been able to find an officer of the name of Helmer. There are no returns or rolls in this office of the privates who served in the rangers or the militia. I find no Captain by the name of BigBread but I find that in August 1775 the following were appointed officers of the regiments of militia in the (then County of Tryon) whereof

Jacob Klock was Colonel.
John Breadbake Captain
John Sieley 1 Lieutenant
Jacob Ekert 2 Lieutenant

On the twenty fifth of June 1778 the Consul of Appointment made the following appointments in Col. Klocks Regiment of Militia
John Bradbuck Captain
John Zules 1 Lieutenant
Jacob Ekert 2 Lieutenant
Nukolus Van Slyck Ensign
John Van Slyck 2 Lieutenant of Capt. Kyers Co.

March 17th 1778 John Smith Ensign

Vice VanSlyck Promoted
Yours respectfully
ARCHD. CAMPBELL,
Dep. Sec.

To A. Goales, Esq.

**AFFADAVIT OF GEORGE ROSE-
KRANTS**

State of New York, County of Herkimer ss:

George Rosecrants of the town of Little Falls in said county being duly

sworn deposeseth and saith that he is aged seventy four years the fifteenth day of March 1837 that his father was the Rev. Abraham Rosecrants for many years before the Revolutionary war, during that war and for many years and until his death after the war the minister of the Reformed protestant Dutch Church in German Flatts in said county. That among the records of marriages kept by deponent's father not lost or destroyed are and since his death have been in the possession and custody of deponent and among those records this deponent finds, in the proper hand writing of his said father entered in regular order is recorded that in "1776, Feb. 27 Adam Helmer was married to Anna P. Bellinger" by him, that this deponent believes this record to be true and authentic and has no doubt that he said marriage had took place

This deponent saith he was well acquainted with said Anna Helmer from his, this deponent's infancy and recollects very well in the latter part of the war and previous to peace that deponent was at Fort Herkimer in said County and that news of an alarm arose and that said Helmer with a part of a company of privates and that Henry Harter with a part of another company marched to the region of Country called Little Lake and Schuyler Lake in the now town of Warren. That said Helmer was an officer then but whether Lieutenant or Captain deponent does not recollect and cannot state but recollects that he had the command of the corps that then marched out on that alarm. This deponent frequently during many years after said war saw said Helmer and was well acquainted in the neighborhood where said Helmer lived and said Helmer was always reported to have been a Revolutionary soldier and officer and believed to have served as such, and deponent always did and always will believe the same to be true.

This deponent saith he was also well acquainted since his infancy with Captain John Breadbake who was also an officer in the Revolutionary war and saith his surname was variously spelled that by some it was spelled Bigbread, by some Bradbrick and by others Breadbake. That he is only person with that name or of any of those variations that this deponent ever knew or heard of in the Mohawk Country where deponent has always

resided and that he died without having any child. Further saith not.

George Rosecrantz

GEORGE ROZECRANTZ.

I certify that on the tenth day of March 1838 came before me George Rosecrants to me well known and made oath in due form of law that foregoing deposition signed by him was true, and that said George is a man of good moral character and his statements entitled to credit.

William Brooks
Justice, Herkimer Co.

WILLIAM BROOKS,

Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Herkimer.

AFFADAVIT OF PETER FLAGG (Pensioner)

State of New York County of Herkimer ss:

Peter Flagg of the town of German Flatts in said county being duly sworn saith that he is seventy eight years of age and is a pensioner of the United States under the Act of June 2, 1832 that he was well acquainted with Adam Helmer now deceased in the Revolutionary war and for many years after the war that this deponent and said Helmer in the war for a season lived together and occupied the same house at Fort Plain, that in the year 1777 the said Adam Helmer was first lieutenant in a company of Rangers which were then in the service of the United States in the vicinity of Herkimer where the said company was raised being then Tryon County that in the said year 1777 this deponent was enlisted and served in said company of Rangers of which the said Helmer was first Lieutenant for the period of nine months. This deponent was enlisted in said company by the said Adam Helmer himself and is certain it was in the year 1777 from the fact that this deponent never served in the said Rangers Corps at any other time than this one enlistment which was in the year 1777. That the said service and enlistment which of this deponent was also during the year of the Oriskany Battle where General Herkimer fell which battle was fought in the year 1777. That this deponent was not in said battle for the reason that he was confined with sickness but that the said Adam Helmer with the company

were at said Battle but that the said Adam Helmer with the company were at said Battle but that the said Adam Helmer was not in said engagement as this deponent was then informed and as he has ever since understood for the reason that the said Adam Helmer and one Mark Deumouth were dispatched by General Herkimer with a letter to Col. Gansvoort of his General Herkimer's approach that the said Helmer and Deumouth with said letter found their way thru the line of the besegers into the said Fort and the information thus communicated to Col. Gansvoort was the occasion as is believed of the sortie from the said Fort Stanwix under Lieutenant Willett and the others upon the enemies rear during the engagement with General Herkimer and besides the personal knowledge of this deponent of the service of Adam Helmer aforesaid the said Helmer has always been esteemed and reported to have served in the Revolutionary as a soldier and officer and that such is the general belief of the neighborhood in which this deponent resides as well as of the deponent and further this deponent saith that although the said Adam Helmer was not in the service of the said Battle with General Herkimer's men yet he accompanied Col. Willett and his men from Fort Stanwix and was in the said Battle and attack upon the enemy with Col. Willett as the deponent has always been informed and believed and still believes.

Peter x Flagg
his
mark

his
PETER x FLAGG.
mark

Subscribed and sworn to this 12th day of March 1838 before me.

John A. Rasbach
Justice Herkimer Co., Mar. 12 1838

JOHN A. RASBACH,
Justice of Peace.

**JOINT AFFADAVIT OF MICHAEL
ITTIG AND PETER HOYER**

State of New York, Herkimer Co.,

ss:

Michael Ittig of German, natls ag-

ed sixty five and Peter Hoyer of Warren aged sixty four years both of said county of Herkimer being duly sworn saith that they were well acquainted with Adam Helmer whose widow we are informed is an applicant for a pension for services performed in the Revolutionary war by the said Adam. That our acquaintance commenced in our infancy which was shortly after said war and we frequently heard that the said Adam speak of his services rendered as soldier and officer in said war in the neighborhood of Herkimer where said Helmer during the war for many years after the war resided and that besides the statements of the said Adam it has always been generally reported and believed in the neighborhood of this deponent that the said Adam Helmer served in the war of the Revolution in the capacity both as a private and officer, that he was a lieutenant in a company of rangers of which during said war was raised and served in Tryon county. That the said Adam Helmer had always been reported by these persons who served with him in said war to have been a very active and spirited soldier. And always among the foremost in resisting and pursuing the enemy whenever resistance or pursuit became necessary and the said Michael Ittig for himself saith his father Michael Ittig was a Captain in the Revolutionary army in the militia and that he, this deponent has very frequently heard his father who is now also deceased speak of the said Adam Helmer and his services in the war of the Revolution and that from his father as well as from others this deponent learned that the said Adam Helmer served as an officer and Lieutenant in the Rangers in said war and that he was an active and good soldier. And further this deponent sayeth not.

Michael Ittig

Peter Hoyer

MICHAEL ITTIG

PETER HOYER

Sworn and Subscribed this 12th day of March 1838 before me

JOHN H. RASBACH,
Justice of the Peace.

Herkimer County, ss. I do hereby certify that I am personally acquainted with Peter Flagg, Michael Ittig and Peter Hoyer the deponents in the foregoing affidavits and that they are men of good moral character and their statements entitled to credit.

Dated this 12th day of March, 1838
at Herkimer.

JOHN H. RASBACH,
Justice.

AFFIDAVIT OF JACOB MARKELL

Personally appeared before William Brooks, one of the Justices of the Peace of the town of Little Falls county of Herkimer, Jacob Markell of the town of Manheim in said county of Herkimer who being duly sworn deposes and says that he is the age of 67 years that he was well acquainted with John Breadbake of the Town of Palatine and County of Montgomery from the infancy of this deponent to the death of the said Breadbake who was an uncle of his deponent that among the German people the said Breadbake went generally by the name of Bigbread that there was no other in this county that his deponent ever heard of by the name of Breadbake or Bigbread except the above named John Breadbake and that he always went by the name of Captain Bigbread among the German people.



JACOB MARKELL

Sworn before me the 13th day of March, 1838.

WILLIAM BROOKS,
Justice of the Peace in Herkimer County, N. Y.

I the undersigned hereby certify that I have been personally acquainted with the above named Jacob Markell for a term of twenty years and that he is a highly respected person and of the highest creditability and that his statement above made are entitled to the fullest confidence.


WILLIAM BROOKS,
Justice of the Peace.

AFFIDAVIT OF ABRAHAM G. ROSECRANTS

State of New York Herkimer County, ss:

Abraham G. Rosecrants of the Town of Little Falls in said County being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he is a son of George Rosecrants Esquire deceased of the same place who died the 21st day of December last past and is grandson of the Reverend Abraham Rosecrants many years since deceased and who as deponent is informed & believes true was before, during & until his death after the Revolutionary War the minister of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the (now) town of German Flatts. That a short time before the death of this deponent's father he placed in deponents hands for safe keeping the records of marriages, births, baptisms kept as deponent has always been informed & as he believes true were made & kept by deponents said Grandfather while he was such minister. Deponent saith he is in his thirty fifth year of age and the said records are the same records which have from the infancy of the deponent been used and treated by his father & others as the true & genuine records of marriages, births, & baptisms made & Kept by his said Grandfather at the periods at which they bear date. This deponent saith that in said records is contained the marriage of Joh: Adam F. Helmer to Anna Piet. Bellinger on the twenty seventh day of February one thousand seven hundred and seventy six and this deponent further states and certifies that it is a true copy of the record with the exception of the date which is expressed on the record in fair legible figures as follows "1776" "27 Febr. Joh: Adam F. Helmer to Anna Piet: Bellinger."

I Abraham G. Rosecrants above named deposeth and saith that I hold the office of supervisor in the town of Little Falls in said county and state aforesaid. That the above is a true extract from the records aforesaid of said marriage with the exception above named as certified by me.



ABRAHAM ROSECRANTS.

This may certify that on this 11th day of January 1839 before me Abraham G. Rosecrants who is personally known to me to be the person who is described in & who signed the above deposition is true & I certify that he is a man of fair & good character for truth and veracity.

WILLIAM BROOKS,
Justice of the Peace.

The above erasure of "Abraham

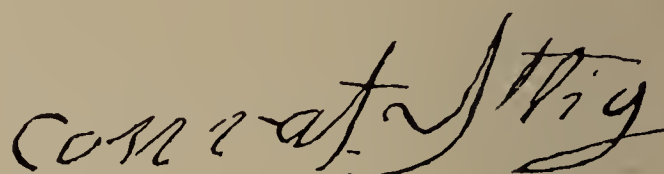
G. Rosecrants" was made before executing this paper & was a mistake in the said Rosecrants in first putting his name in that place.

W. BROOKS, J. P.

AFFIDAVIT OF CONRAD ITTIG (Pensioner)

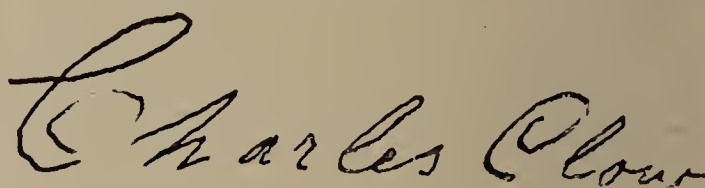
Herkimer County SS: Conrad Ittig of Frankfort in said County being duly sworn before Charles Clow a Commissioner of Deeds for said county says—that he is aged seventy seven years the 20th day of this month and that he is a pensioner of the United States and that he resided in the town of German Flatts before and during the Revolutionary war. That he was well acquainted with Adam F. Helmer sometimes written Adam Helmer also of the town of German Flatts. That to the knowledge and distinct recollection of this deponent the said Adam F. Helmer was a Lieutenant in Capt. Bigbread or Breadbakes Company of Rangers for the period of nine months. That this deponent served in the same Company at the same time which was during the Revolution year 1778 and was discharged the first day of January 1779. That said company was raised and officered under the direction of the Committee of Safety as this deponent was informed and believes by the authority of the Governor. The said Committee of Safety then were Rudolph Steel, Michael Ittig and John Frank, the latter of whom is still living. That during the frequent alarms and attacks upon the inhabitants by the Tories and Indians under the direction of the Committee and the Continental Officers the Militia were classed in classes of eight or ten & deponent does not recollect which & each class were obliged to furnish one man for the service & in this manner the company called Rangers under the Command of Capt. Bigbread who was a Captain of the Militia was raised & deponent was hired by one of the classes as a soldier therein & served nine months during which time the said Adam Helmer was a lieutenant in said Company acting under the authority of the Committee and the Governor as this deponent is informed & verily believes. That said Company deponent well recollects went down to Fort Plain and were mustered by Col. Waggoner that John Smith commonly called Blind John Smith was Ensign & they were constantly employed as scouts in parties

on the look out for tories & Indians. That said Company was attached to the Command of as deponent believed of Col. Gansevoort. That the authority of its officers Capt. Bigbread, Lieutenant Helmer and John Smith was understood to be derived from the Governor through the committee of Safety and that to the knowledge of the deponent such companies of the local Militia under the same authority were usually organized every summer season, that the officers were either volunteers or were appointed by the Committee and unless they happened to be officers of the local Militia they were not usually commissioned by the Governor and further says not.



CONRAD ITTIG.

Sworn and subscribed the 15th day of January 1839 before me.



CHARLES CLOW.
Commissioner of Deeds.

I certify that I am well acquainted with Conrat Ittig the individual who made the annexed affidavit and that he is a person of good moral character and that his statements are entitled to full credit and belief.

CHARLES CLOW.
- Com. of Deeds.

ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT OF ANDREW PIPER

Herkimer County ss:

Andrew Piper of Frankfort in said County being duly sworn before Charles Clow a Commissioner of Deeds in and for said county in addition to the facts stated in his affidavit sworn before Nicholas Smith, Esq. on the 18th day of November 1837 says that the nature of the warfare prosecuted upon the frontier of the state of New York in the Valley of the Mohawk River by the sudden descent of the Tories and Indians up-

on the settlements that it became necessary to organize some of the Militia & keep them in service during every summer season that after the Battle of Oriskany this deponent remembers this militia was divided into classes of eights or ten. Each class being obliged to furnish one man this division was understood to be under the authority of the Governor & the Committee of Safety & deponent recollects that the Company called Rangers under the Command of Capt. Bigbread and Lieutenant Adam F. Helmer and Ensign John Smith was thus organized that Capt. Bigbread belonged at Palatine in the now County of Montgomery & was a commissioned Captain of the Militia belonging to Klock's Regiment that the officers of these were as deponent is informed & believes appointed by the local Committee of Safety under the authority derived from the Government & were not therefore usually commissioned that their services were for different & uncertain periods of time according to the various necessities of the county & the times and deponent further says that the said Adam F. Helmer was usually called among the dutch people Adam & his name was frequently written Adam but his true name deponent believes was Adam F. Helmer. That the statement in the Life of Brant by W. L. Stone page 233 which has been read to deponent that the said Adam Helmer went to carry Intelligence to Col. Gansvoort is correct according to the best recollection of deponent & refers to the same Adam F. Helmer mentioned in this affidavit & this deponent was knowing to said Helmer going away from the troops at the time & further saith not.

his
ANDREW x PIPER.
mark

Sworn and subscribed the 15th day of January 1839 before me.

CHARLES CLOW,
Com. of Deeds.

I certify that Andrew Piper the person who made the above affidavit is a man of good moral character & his statements are fully entitled to credit & belief & that am well acquainted with said Andrew Piper.

CHARLES CLOW,
Com. of Deeds.

Herkimer County, Clerks Office, ss

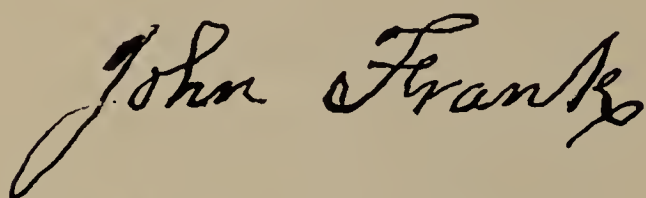
I hereby certify that Charles Clow Esq. was on the date of the above affidavits a Commissioner of Deeds etc. And that William Brooks Esq. was a Justice of the Peace on the date of the within affidavit in and for said County & lawfully Commissioned & qualified. And that I am well acquainted with their several handwritings and verily believe that the several signatures purporting to be theirs are genuine. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said County, Jan., 1838.

EDWIN A. MUNSON,
Deputy Clerk.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN FRANK (Pensioner)

John Frank of said county being duly sworn says that he is aged eighty years the 23 day of March next and is a pensioner of the United States. That he resided in the town of German before and during the Revolutionary war and was for one year or thereabout a member of the Committee of Safety. That he was well acquainted with Adam Helmer who was a son of Frederick Helmer to distinguish him from a person of the same name who was a tory his name was written Adam F. which stood for Frederick because he was a faithful whig of those times as well as those of his family and connexions. That to the knowledge of this deponent the said Adam F. Helmer was engaged in the service of the United States in year 1778 but this said deponent cannot state the precise time he served but this deponent believes he was absent from his home from the Spring of that year until the succeeding winter. This deponent knows that said Adam F. Helmer acted as a Lieutenant in Captain Bigbreads company of Rangers but does not know that he ever had a commission. The Deponent well recollects that the local militia were classed into classes of eight ten and sometimes fifteen and each class when organized by the Committee of Safety or by the Governor were obliged to furnish a man and in this way a company of Guards or Scouts were organized every summer season usually for nine months service and the officers were generally either volunteers from the

militia or were appointed by the Committee of Safety or by the Governor. This deponent recollects that Captain Bigbread (who always was so called, but his right name was Breadbake) company was thus raised and organized in the year 1778 but the deponent does not recollect how the officers were appointed or commissioned or whether they were commissioned at all, but Adam F. Helmer acted as a member and Lieutenant of said company. This deponent lived near the said Adam F. Helmer during his life time and has often talked with him about the events of the war and he always was reputed to be and to have been a faithful officer and soldier of the war. That he married Anna Bellinger with whom he always lived as his wife until his decease. And further saith not.

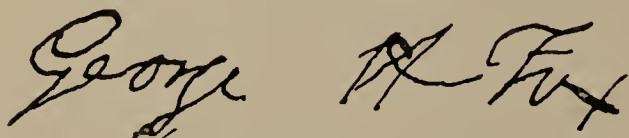


JOHN FRANK

Sworn an subscribed the 18th day of January 1839 before me George W. Fox, Justice.

Herkimer County ss:

I certify that I am well acquainted personally with John Frank whose name is subscribed to the annexed affidavit and he is a respectable citizen and his statements are entitled to entire and full belief as he retains his faculties about Revolutionary events well for a person of his age.


GEORGE W. FOX,
Justice.

LETTER FROM A. MANN, JR.

Frankfort, N. Y., Feb. 4, 1839.

J. L. Edwards, Esq.
Com. of Pensions

Sir:

The friends of the late Adam F. Helmer whose widow Anna is an applicant before you for a pension on account of his Revolutionary Service

es have desired me to state to you briefly my knowledge of the man & his revolutionary neighbors (witnesses in behalf of his widow) and to solicit you to view the case with all the fervor which the rules of your office will permit. I do this most freely because my sympathies are always awakened in behalf of those who suffered famine and death to establish the liberty of the Land whereon as a freeman I now dwell and I know your own kindness of disposition well enough by past experience to believe you will if needful pardon this intrusion.

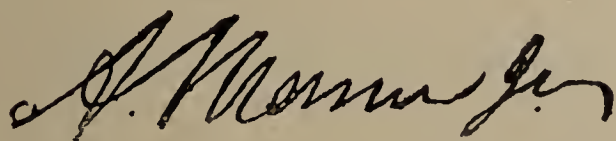
This Mr. Adam F. Helmer resided within a few miles of me from the time of my birth to his death and was among our most respectable German farmers. His widow now claims the pension allowed to a Lieut. & I understand from the papers that no evidence exists in the minutes of the Council of appointment of his appointment or Commission. Notwithstanding this I am satisfied from the statements of all his surviving contemporaries with whom I have conversed that he was legally a Lieut. in Capt. Breadbake's company of Rangers & served therein successfully. Both tradition and testimony concur that as a Lieut. he went on the authority of Gen. Herkimer from the German Flatts (where I now write) to carry a message through the ranks of St. Leger's & Johnson's army to Fort Stanwix while it was besieged before the battle of Oriskany to Col. Willett & succeeded in reaching the fort from which he sallied forth with Willetts men to the rescue of Herkimer's forces which had fallen into an ambushade. In the Language of Judge Frank his neighbor whose affidavit is before you "Capt. Helmer was not afraid of Tories or Indians but was always a leader when there was danger. In respect to the want of a commission I had formerly occasion frequently to explain verbally to you the nature of the warfare which was altogether purdatory in the Valley of the Mohawk then the extreme frontier. The service was temporary short as a general rule but the frequent incursions of the Indians and more cruel tortories rendered it expedient every summer to organize a company or two of patrols or scouts to keep a look out for the enemy while those who remained near the forts or blockhouses planted corn and produced subsistence. These companies were frequently organized by the local Committees of Safety under

the authority of the Governor or Chief Officers in Command. They were generally under the command of Militia officers as Volunteers or otherwise but for want of such the Committee of Safety appointed. In this manner I have no doubt Adam F. Helmer was appointed in Breadbakes company and of course had no commission from the Governor and Counsel. This is corroborated and established by the testimony and confirmed by tradition and the history of the times and I trust in a case as meritorious as this is known to be may be satisfactory to the Law and its administrators. I perceive also some queries as to the name or Identity because the name is sometimes written Adam & sometimes Adam F., your own acquaintance with the manners & customs of the early and unlettered Germans will enable you to account for this especially when you consider how long they contended with the difficulties of speaking proper names in English and more still in writing them. At any rate there was but one Adam Helmer in this county—the other of the name of Adam Helmer adhered to the enemy and went with Johnson during the war to Canada

I presume there is no difficulty as to the marriage and identity of the widow and allow me to add the hope that this case may be most favorably considered because I believe it is undoubtedly meritorious.

I remain Sir with great

Respect your Obt. Servt.



A. MANN, JR.

(Member Assembly 1828-29-30-32
Member Congress two terms 1832 34.
—Editor.)

AFFIDAVIT OF HENRY MURPHY (PENSIONER)

State of New York)
County of Montgomery) ss:
Town of Minden)

This fifteenth day of May One thousand eight hundred and forty Henry Murphy of the town of Starks

in the county of Herkimer, New York State came before me S. Countryman a Justice of the Peace of the said County of Montgomery being duly sworn deposeth and saith he was seventy seven last December and an invalid pensioner of the United States that in the Revolution war he was a soldier under Adam Lipe Captain under Colonel Murphy who was under Captain Cornelius Venever of the same regiment that in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventy eight this said Thomas Murphy enlisted as a nine months man and was considered under Captain Breadbake and I Henry Murphy took his place and did actually serve nine months Captain Breadbake that was a Militia officer we called our Captain Breadbake was an officer in Col. Clock's Regiment General Herkimers 'Brigade Breadbake was wounded in the Oriskany battle but was still able to keep a long with the other troops the greatest part of the time he further saith the country was in a deplorable situation the rangers raised in seventy six were not Sufficient to guard the country the Governor appointed a committee the committee gave orders to the Officers to raise more rangers. On this ground the companies of nine months men were raised in the year seventy seven and seventy eight I did actually serve the nine months in seventy eight and the Militia captain Breadbake was my captain and I think the said A. Helmer was first Lieutenant and was commissioned by the higher Officers we were pulled and hauled and ordered from place to place and often in great confusion but were stationed apart of the time at Fort Daton, Fort Herkimer and Fort Stanwix. We were not kept together but we were rangers and did range from place to place it was difficult to raise sufficient companies to guard our country unless there could be officers that sited the soldiers that is one reason why Breadbake when Captain in the militia volunteered as a captain Over the rangers Breadbake was a good Captain although wounded and I actually served under him as a ranger the nine months stated it is so long since I cannot exactly state all the officers in their several capacities but there was One we called blind Hohn Smith was One and there was one Getman and several Others that acted as under officers we were dismissed the first day of January seventy nine and further I deponent saith not.

HENRY MURPHY.

AFFIDAVIT OF PETER FOX

(Pensioner)

State of New York, Montgomery County, Town of Palatine, ss:

This Fourteenth day of May One thousand eight hundred and forty Peter Fox came before me Jacob C. Fox, one of the Justices of the Peace in said county being duly sworn deposeth and saith he was eighty years old last December and that he is a pensioner of the United States that he was well acquainted with Adam Helmer whose widow is now an applicant for a pension. He knows the said Helmer to have been one of the most respectable men a man whose word was ever to be believed and a worthy citizen and good patriot and soldier on the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven he lay with the troops up the river all the companies all along the river were ordered out we marched along from old Fort Schuyler to Oriskany in marching along the said Helmer sit on a log beside the road he bid good by I called him he said he would be amongst us I did not happen to see him when fighting but when we met again he told me he was chosen to carry an express to Fort Stanwix he was ordered by General Herkimer to sit on the log until the troops were all out of sight then to go across the woods and let no one know he had the letter Helmer told me he could not get by the Indian camp no other way then to wade the river he put the letter in his hat and kept his head above water and came toward the Fort he left the river when he found he must and crept along. The guard at the Fort hailed him he gave them a sign they immediately came to him and aided him to the fort he further told me the following day he sallied fourth with Willet and his men into the Indian camp they broke them up took all from them ammunition and every thing that was worth carrying away and returned to the Fort without loosing a man at the latter part of the war he brought his family here to Palatine he lived in the house with my father a part of the time I cannot state exactly the time but a company of Tories and Indians came into our border. One of the tories deserted came and told us the enemy was near we all turned out and went Helmer and five Others were chosen to Spy them out, enemy espied us and fired we were immediately in battle Helmer shot an Indian broke his leg but discovered the Indian intended to shoot him Helmer came to him, the Indian cried

for mercy but Helmer perceived the Indian still fixing his gun to shoot Helmer sprung caught hold of the gun Indian would not let go Helmer took the Indians tomahawk and made an end of him Helmer took the gun and tomahawk and we went on our return we saw he had been scalped I cannot state the acts of Helmer but the time he lived among us here he kept himself well equipped and ready to start any moment to the end of the war and as ever been esteemed as One of the preservers of our country.

Peter Fox

PETER FOX.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 14th day of May, 1840.

Jacob C Fox

JACOB FOX, Justice.

This is to certify that I am well acquainted with Peter Fox to be a man of truth and veracity.

I myself have heard my father say that he was in Company with the said Adam Helmer when he killed the Indian.

JACOB FOX, Justice.

I Peter C. Fox do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with the above named A. Helmer in the Revolutionary war and that he and family lived in my father's house in or towards the last of the war and to my recollection no man more braver than him the said A. Helmer.

PETER C. FOX.

LETTER OF PETER HELMER TO MR. YATES

Weeds Port in the town of Brutus Cayuga County, N. Y. State.

Mr. Giles F. Yates, Esq.

Sir:

Having by a friend been inforemd you Sir have assisted the widow and the fatherless to obtain their rights in getting pensions I take the liberty to inform you of my luck in trying to obtain a pension for my mother (who died the 25th of January 1841) it is five years since I began I went to Herkimer in expectation of finding evidence to prove of my father's services as Captain after one Captain Bake Bread was wounded Bigbread the German used to call him I failed of finding such evidence but obtained three affidavits for being first lieutenant for nine months in

company of rangers Breadbake being Captain. I proved their marriage and supposed all done but obtained no pension there has been two journeys since and obtained several affidavits but obtain nothing, although there is found in the war department at Washington four months and seven days credited to Adam Helmer (the name of my deceased father) sometimes his name was written Adam F. Helmer he was a man which went through every hardship that was endured during the war he was in several skirmishes and battles among the Indians he was the Identical Helmer which is mentioned in the Life of Brant as going with the express to Fort Schuyler for nearby called Fort Stanwix and sallied out with Willett to meet Herkimer and many more services his family was routed three times his house and all his stuff burnt three times during the war for which he had no compensation nor ever received any pay for his services and because he was so valiant a soldier and his wife while living needed her pension and her heirs who are needy which prompts me still to persevere. Now Mr. Yates a line from you giving your advise would oblige your humble servant.

PETER HELMER.

ms Giles & Yates

Mr. Giles F. Yates.
January 14th, 1843

N. B. Sir by conversing with many of the Revolutioners you might obtain information concerning my father's services and if there is any chance for us to obtain our right I should like it.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN HENRY WAFLE (PENSIONER)

State of New York County of Montgomery ss:

This sixteenth day of May 1840 John Henry Wafle of the town of Canajoharie in the County of Montgomery came before me John I. Van Alstine a Justice of the Peace for and in County and deposeth and saith that he is eighty three years old, a pensioner of the United States in the commencement of the war he resided in Stone Arabia in the town of Palatine in the County aforesaid about two miles from the residence of Captain John Breadbreak a Militia officer in Col. Klock's Regiment and General Herkimer's Brigade, he was a private soldier under Capt. John Breadbreak soon after the commencement of the war the Government ordered several companies to be

raised to guard the country from Tories and Indians called Rangers. The Deponent volunteered and listed for six months we were regularly organized as a company, our Captain was Jacob Seeber, first Lieutenant John Seeber, second Lieutenant John House we were stationed around Fort Stanwix to guard the Fort and workman who was engaged in building said Fort at the expiration of six months I was discharged and returned home. The Tories and Indians grew so outrageous the Governor appointed a Committee of Counsel and the Committee of Counsel gave orders to raise companies for nine months men who were usually called rangers in the year 1777 the companies was called together under general Herkimer, Jr. but at what places the deponent cannot say but it is his impression that it was at Fort Herkimer. They found it difficult to raise volunteers until they knew who their officers were. John Breadbreak was a farmer had many servants and never labored himself was much esteemed as a man and as an officer and for the encouragement of the inhabitants and soldiers volunteered as a Captain over the nine months men as before stated at that time of the Oriskany Battle he called his militia men and rangers together and they formed one company under Captain John Breadbreak.

And the deponent says that Anna Helmer who is the widow of Adam Helmer is now an applicant for a pension and that she now resides in the town of Brutus, in the County of Cayuga, in the State of New York and the said Adam Helmer was first Lieutenant over these rangers under Capt. John Breadbreak and whether served as an uncommissioned officer or was commissioned by the higher officers he actually served nine months in the year 1778. There was a company of rangers raised and this Captain John Breadbreak though wounded took charge of this company of Rangers raised by the order of this committee of Counsel and Adam Helmer volunteers as first Lieutenant and that one John Smith was an under officer who was usually called blind John Smith in order to distinguish him from another Smith and this deponent cannot now recollect the other under officers of said company.

Captain John Breadbreak was so much esteemed among the soldiers that they daily got many volunteers and that then they classed these men from ten to sixteen in a class and drew out of all their companies suffi-

cient to make up a guard of rangers called nine months men and they were legally organized as a company at Col. Waggoner's near Fort Plain in the county of Montgomery, and wherever there was likely to lie a battle the militia who were generally farmers were called together and started at a minutes warning and their equipment examined in order to be in readiness and when they marched to battle they all formed one company as here and before stated under Captain John Breadbreak and when the battle was over the militia returned to their several occupations and that Captain Breadbreak usually lay around among his nine months men, which were divided in scouting parties under watch day and night and that they served their nine months & were discharged on New Year's morning in the year 1779 and returned home to their several occupations. I, this deponent, was called into Oriskany Battle, Saratoga Battle, Johnstown Battle, and several other skirmishes and after the latter were once returned home to my farm and held myself in readiness as usual at a moments warning and further the deponent saith not.

his
JOHN HENRY x WAFLE.
mark

Sworn this 16th day of May 1840 before me



J. I. VAN ALSTINE.

I certify that I am personally acquainted with John Henry Wafle the person who made the above affidavit that he is a creditable and reputable witness. Dated May 16th, 1840.

J. I. VAN ALSTINE,
Justice.

State of New York, Montgomery County

Clerk's Office: I do hereby certify that the above named John I. Van Alstine whose name is subscribed to the jurat of the foregoing affidavit etc. was on the day of the date thereof a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County and duly authorized by the laws of the state to administer oaths and that his signature subscribed to the same is genuine.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of my office this sixteenth day of May 1840.

A. J. CONNIE,
Clerk.

AFFIDAVIT OF DENNIS A. FLANDER

State of New York, Montgomery County, ss:

Dennis A. Flander of the town of Oppenheim in the County of Fulton aged eighty six years and upwards being duly sworn saith that during the Revolution he was well acquainted and knew Aadm Helmer who hailed from the district of Herkimer. That said Adam Helmer in the summer of 1781 was on duty with the militia from his district in what is now called Palatine and the deponent at the time saw and particularly remembers that said Adam Helmer was in the battle so called (Mudder Kill) or Mud Creek in the town now of St. Johnsville and then and there saw said Adam Helmer knock an Indian in the head and the Indian said "Skana Skana" and said Helmer replied "I will skin you" and then killed him. This deponent was then and there on duty in the company commanded by Captain Gross in the Regiment of Colonel Willett.

his
DENNIS x FLANDER.
mark

Subscribed and sworn this 12th day of Oct. 1844 before me

LAWRENCE MARCELLUZ, J. P.

I also certify that said Dennis Flander is a witness of credibility and that the foregoing affidavit was carefully read over to him and its contents explained before he signed or made his mark & sworn to the same.

L. MARCELLUZ, J. P.

New York 4163

Anna Helmer, widow of Adam Helmer who died April, 1830 of Cayuga in the State of New York who was Lt. in the Co. commanded by Captain..... of the Reg. commanded by..... in the line for 18 months N. Y.

Inscribed on the Roll of Albany at the rate of 240 Dollars 00 Cents per annum, to commence on the 4th day of March 1831 Jan. 25 '41 when she died.

Certificate of Pension issued the 15th day of Feb. 1845 and sent to G. F. Yates, Present.

Arrears to the 4th of Semi-Annual allowance ending

Revolutionary Claim Act July 4, 1836 Section the.....

Recorded by F. S. Swann, Clerk.
Book C Vol. 1 page 117.

In pursuance of a law passed the 27th day of April 1784, entitled "An act for the settlement of the pay of the Levies and Militia, for their services in the late War, and for other purposes therein mentioned," the following certificates have been issued, bearing interest at five per cent per annum, viz:

1780 Sept. 1 1126 Adam Helmer Private 0—16—0.

1780 Oct. 24, 18526 Adam Helmer, Lieut. 45—5—8.

1780, April 1, 20841, Adam Helmer, Sergt. 6—5—4.

State of New York
Comptroller's Office, Albany,

October 23, 1840

I hereby certify the above to be true extracts from Book 1, 4 and 5 now remaining in this office and that the service for which the certificates above named were issued, were per-

formed under the following officers, viz:

First under Capt. Henry Miller in Col. Jacob Klock Regiment.

Second under Capt. John Bradbick, in Col. Lewis Dubois, 2, regiment N. Y. Levies.

Third, under Capt. Hendrick Staring, in Col. Peter Bellinger's Regiment.

Fourth in Capt. Hendrick Staring, in Col. Peter Bellinger's Regiment.

Fifth, under Capt. Hendrick Staring, in Col. Peter Bellinger's Regiment.

Sixth under Capt. Hendrick Staring in Col. Peter Bellinger's Regiment

Seventh, under Capt. Hendrick Staring in Col. Peter Bellinger's Regiment.

Eighth under Capt. Hendrick Staring, in Col. Peter Bellinger's Regiment.

W. W. TREDWAY,
Dept. Comptroller.



W. W. Tredway

ADDENDA

Since the Helmer Family articles appeared in the Enterprise and News additional information has been ob-

tained about other descendants.

Pages refer to "The Helmer Family Genealogy".

DESCENDANTS OF PHILIP HELMER

CHAPTER XIII (Extended)

Severinus Helmer

Page 43. Severinus Helmer, born May 7, 1813 (son of Peter P. Helmer and Margaret Dygert) was also called Sylvanus. He married Mary Barbara Frank and moved to Fredonia, Wisconsin, about 1835 and died there a few years later.

Severinus (Sylvanus) Helmer and his wife Mary Barbara Frank were the parents of two daughters:

1. Charlotte Malvina.
2. Margaret who married Philip Maxey in Brandon, Wisc., in 1866.

Peter William Helmer

Page 43. Peter William Helmer, born October 14, 1822 (son of Peter P. Helmer and Margaret Dygert), married Nancy Frank who was a sister of Mary Barbara Frank, wife of Severinus Helmer.

Henry Helmer

Page 43. Henry Helmer, born June

25, 1790 (son of George P. Helmer and Catharine Staring) married February 10, 1810, Elizabeth Myers, and lived in the Town of Schuyler, Herkimer County, in the year 1816. Some years afterwards they moved to the Town of Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y.

They were the parents of several children, among them being:

1. Elizabeth, born March 5, 1811.
2. William Henry, born May 23, 1813.
3. Gertrude (Charity), born September 24, 1815, who married Ira Burch Howe.
4. John, who lived in or near Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y.

There were probably other children. Two daughters were Mrs. Horace Olds, who lived at Boonville. N. Y., and Mrs. Charles Wildey.

A granddaughter was Mrs. Charles Shumway.

Gertrude (Charity) Helmer

Page 44. Gertrude (Charity) Helmer, born Sept. 24, 1815, (daughter of Henry Helmer and Elizabeth Myers), died in 1852. She married in 1837

Ira Burch Howe, who was born November 24, 1815, in Deerfield, Oneida County, N. Y.

Ira Burch Howe was the son of Joseph Howe, an early settler of Utica, N. Y., and a soldier in the War of 1812. After the death of his wife in 1852 Ira Burch Howe moved with his four children to La Salle County, Illinois, and in 1854 to Ottawa, Illinois.

Gertrude Helmer and her husband Ira Burch Howe were the parents of four children:

1. Byron, born 1838, who married Emma Trowbridge.

2. Aaron, born 1840, who married Jennie Dunavan.

3. Amy, born 1844. Died 1855.

4. Ira Clark, born 1846. Died 1906. Married Louisa Pierce in Ottawa, Ill. They were the parents of a daughter Adelaide who married Vinton Earl Sisson and is now living at Winnetka, Illinois.

Mary Dygert

Page 44. Mary Dygert, born January 13, 1813 (daughter of Elizabeth Helmer and her husband Peter Dygert) married November 6, 1832 Matthew Helmer.

See Chapter XXIII, page 98 for the continuation of this line.

George Henry Dygert

Page 44. George Henry Dygert, born December 14, 1814 (son of Elizabeth Helmer and her husband Peter Dygert) married Lucy Farmer and lived at Gouverneur, N. Y.

Catharine Dygert

Page 44. Catharine Dygert, born September 19, 1816 (daughter of Elizabeth Helmer and her husband Peter Dygert) married Peter Clapsaddle.

Eva Dygert

Page 44. Eva Dygert, born April 6, 1818 (daughter of Elizabeth Helmer and her husband Peter Dygert) married John Millard.

Aurelia Mosier

Page 44. Aurelia Mosier was a second daughter of Elizabeth Helmer and her husband Stephen Mosier, not mentioned heretofore. Aurelia Mosier married a Mr. Fisher and lived at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mary Ann Helmer

Page 45. Mary Ann Helmer (daughter of Michael Helmer and Mary Countryman) married a Mr. Wright and lived in Steuben County, N. Y.

Harriet M. Helmer

Page 45. Harriet M. Helmer (daughter of Michael Helmer and Mary Countryman) married John C. Dreher and lived at Dansville, N. Y.

George Dygert

Page 46. George Dygert (son of Mary Helmer and Peter Dygert) married Mary Ann Helmer, born May, 1839, (daughter of Matthew Helmer and his wife Mary Dygert).

See Chapter XXIII, page 98.

George Philo Folts

Page 46. George Philo Folts, son of Catharine Helmer and John A. Folts) married first Aurelia Bellinger, daughter of Henry Bellinger. They had one son named Bellinger who died young. George Philo Folts married second Elizabeth Snell. He married third Amanda De Haven. No children by the last two marriages.

Joseph Helmer

Page 46. Joseph Helmer, born January 22, 1826 (son of Timothy Hel-

mer and Catharine Kast) married Lucinda Smith and lived at Moravia, N. Y. Lucinda Smith was a daughter of Adam Smith and Elizabeth Hilts and a granddaughter of Margaret Helmer⁴, Henry A.³, Adam², Philip¹.

See Chapter IX, page 28 for a continuation of this line.

Anna Elizabeth Helmer

Page 46. Anna Elizabeth Helmer, born February 28, 1832 (daughter of Timothy Helmer and Catharine Kast) married Robert J. Smith and moved to Empire City, Minnesota.

Timothy Helmer, Jr.

Page 46. Timothy Helmer, Jr., born November 26, 1838 (son of Timothy Helmer and Catharine Kast) married Anna Symonds and moved to Wisconsin. Later he returned to Herkimer. He was a blacksmith by occupation.

No children:

Jeremiah Helmer

Page 46. Jeremiah Helmer, born November 2, 1841 (son of Timothy Helmer and Catharine Kast) married Nancy Catharine Cristman.

Margaret Helmer

Page 47. Margaret Helmer, born May 22, 1803 (daughter of Peter P. Helmer and Margaret Dygert) married January 4, 1824, Jacob L. Herder.

They were the parents of two daughters:

1. Mary, born December 4, 1825, died May 13, 1905, who married Lewis P. Phelps.

2. Harriet, born September 20, 1833, died August 8, 1892, who married George Shannon.

Maria Helmer

Page 47. Maria Helmer, born Feb-

ruary 21, 1811 (daughter of Peter P. Helmer and Margaret Dygert) married January 12, 1832, John J. Herder.

They were the parents of several children, among them being a daughter:

1. Melissa who married Hiram Huyck.

Simon Helmer

Page 47. Simon Helmer, born November 18, 1822 (son of Timothy Helmer and Catharine Kast) married Sarah E. Stearns. In the former article it was stated that the names of their children were very difficult to make out and were subject to possible correction.

The names of their six children are here given correctly:

1. George Monroe who married Louise Brown.

2. Orville who married Almy Watson.

3. Willard.

4. Lorena, who married Isaac Cristman.

5. Fannie E., who married Josiah Mock.

6. Lewis.

CHAPTER XX (Extended)

DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH HELMER

Joshua Stark Helmer

Page 79. Joshua Stark Helmer, born September 8, 1841 (son of Steuben Helmer and Abigail Stark) married Lucy Flagler and lived at Lockport, N. Y., from there moving to Toronto, Canada where he died.

They were the parents of two children:

1. Frederick F., born March 11, 1870, now living at Toronto, Canada.

2. Cyrus, who died in infancy.

Joseph William Helmer

Page 80. Joseph William Helmer, born December 6, 1818 (son of Steuben Helmer and Mary Hammond) had eight children:

1. Ella who married William S. Jackson.
2. Emma, who married Horace Flagler.
3. Howard, who married Carrie Daniels.
4. Ernest (twin).
5. Eugene (twin).
6. Harry.
7. Lillian. Unmarried.
8. Clara, who married Rev. William P. Merrill.

Mulford Helmer

Page 81. Mulford Helmer, born October 17, 1825, died April 20, 1894, (son of Steuben Helmer and Francis Mulford), married January 12, 1849 Almira King.

They were the parents of three sons:

1. Charles Mulford, born January, 1856, died November 14, 1931 at Buffalo, N. Y.
2. William King.
3. Frank Watson.

Rev. Charles D. Helmer

Page 82. Charles D. Helmer, born November 18, 1827 (son of Steuben Helmer and Frances Mulford) married December 25, 1861 Susan Bonnell.

They were the parents of five children:

1. Charles Clarence, born August 31, 1863. Died in infancy.
2. Bruce Hathorn. Died 1873.
3. Faith, born 1867, who married Samuel C. Parks, and is now living at Cody, Wyoming.
4. Ernest, born 1869.
5. Grace, born April 17, 1875. Died in infancy.

Albert M. Helmer

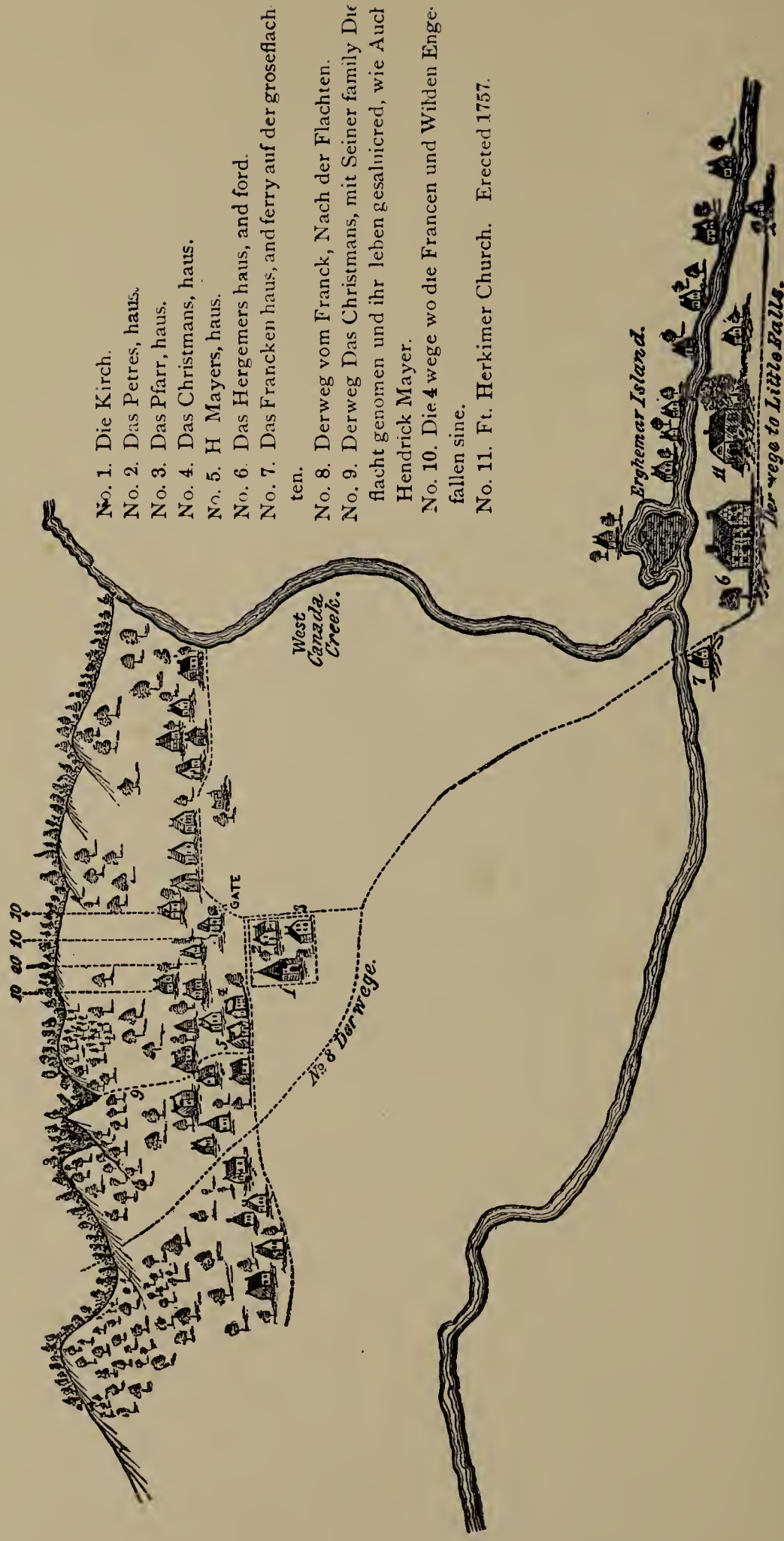
Page 82. Albert M. Helmer, born March 10, 1832 (son of Steuben Helmer and Frances Mulford) married Minnie Newhall.

They were the parents of three children:

1. Newhall.
2. Minnie, who married a Mr. Dickey.
3. Ella who married Daniel Newhall.



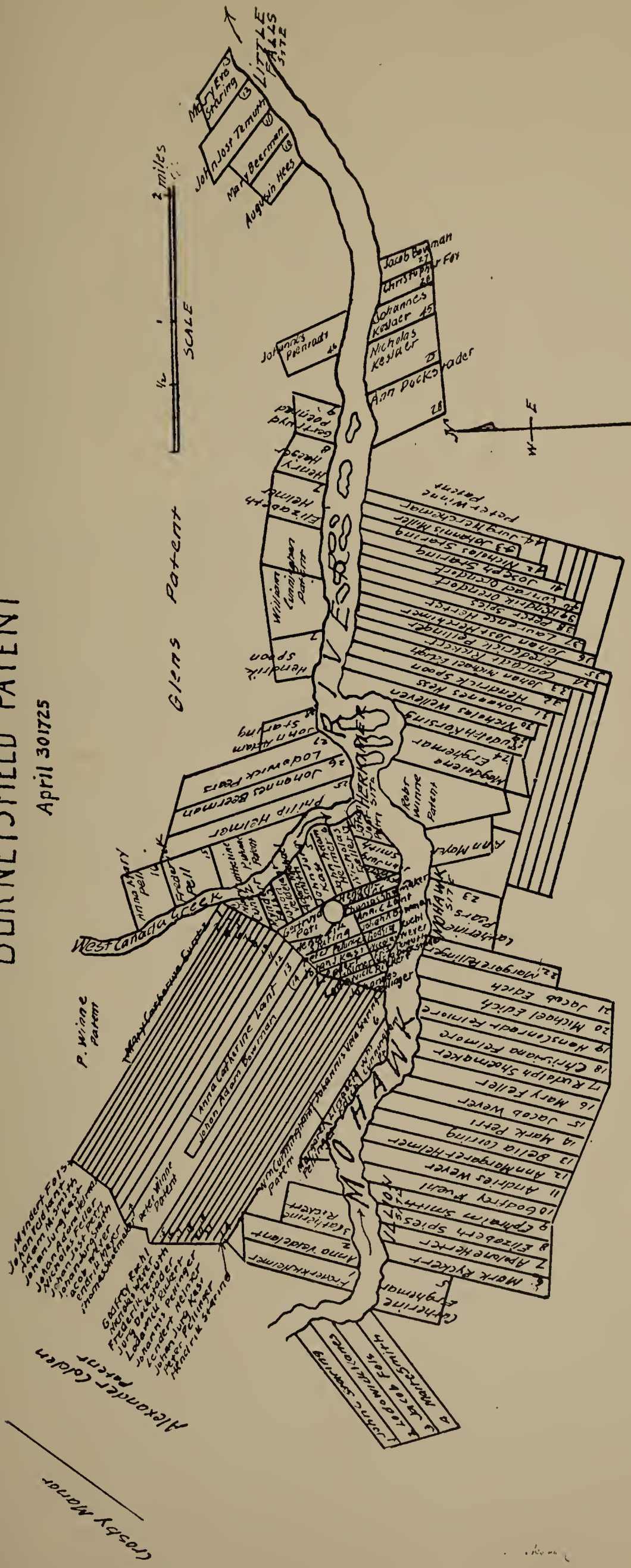
Palatine's Village, Destroyed by Canadian French and Indians Nov. 12th, 1757.



From Simms' Frontiersmen, p. 232. From original c.u.c. loaned by the present owner, Supt. of Schools N. Berton Alter, Nelliston, N. Y. **Explanation of Map.** From survey made as early as 1750 by John Lawyer, Jr., surveyor among whose papers it was found. Translation. No. 1 The church. No. 2 Mr. Petry's house. He was patron of village. No. 3 Minister's house. No. 4 Mr. Christman's house. No. 5 H. Mayer's house. No. 6 Fort Herkimer. No. 7 Francken house and ferry at great flatts. No. 8 road going west. No. 9 Way in which Christmans and Seiner families, also Hendrick Mayer took flight and saved their lives. No. 10 Route by which French and Indians entered village. No. 11 Fort Herkimer church completed about 1757.

MAP BURNETSFIELD PATENT

April 30 1725



The original purchase from the Indians was for "24 English miles along the river and as far back on each side as they wished but the colonial Governor allowed each patentee only 100 acres. This was given in 30 acres as the town site and 70 acres wood lot. The names are as copied. Purchase was dated July 9, 1722. Petition for patent Jan. 17, 1723. Thirty or more families from Schoharie settled on the land in 1723 and were given land certificates. The patent was issued April 30, 1725. The petitioners were John Jost Petrie and Conrad Rickert in behalf of themselves and other Palatines. There were 46 lots of 100 acres each side of the river. Some split as noted. The Village of Herkimer now occupies part of the above patent. Copied for the Enter prise and News, by Boyd Ehle, C. E., and published here for the first time.

Additional Helmer Genealogy

CHAPTER XXV. (Extended)

ADDITIONAL DESCENDANTS OF JOHN HELMER AND ANN SHAW

Adelia Helmer

Page 104. Adelia Helmer (daughter of John Helmer and Ann Shaw) married Alexander Anderson and lived at Johnstwn, N. Y.

They were the parents of a son:

1. Daniel, born July 1, 1849.

Daniel Anderson

Daniel Anderson, born July 1, 1849, (son of Alexander Anderson and Adelia Helmer) married Huldah Plank.

They were the parents of eight children:

1. Alexander.
2. George.
3. Arch.
4. Eugene.
5. Earle.
6. Emma A., who married a Mr. Minor.
7. Frances Ella, who married a Mr.

Steinburg and is now living at Johnstown, N. Y.

8. Jennette, who married a Mr. Jones.

Harmon M. Helmer

Page 105. Harmon M. Helmer, born January 31, 1864, in the Town of Alexandria, N. Y. (son of Marvin Helmer and Cordelia Hill). He died February 26, 1924. He married Carrie May Vandresar, born December 9, 1870.

They were the parents of four children:

1. Frank Eugene, born January 13, 1892. Married Helen M. Derby. They have a son, Frank Eugene, Jr., born December 29, 1930.
2. Floyd E., born November 22, 1894. Married Irene B. Russell and is now living at Omar, St. Lawrence County, N. Y. They have a son, Harold Hubert, born August 12, 1925.
3. Lena M., born September 13, 1896, who married Casper Jack Kellar.
4. Lora A., born February 11, 1900, died May 29, 1928.

Helmers of the North

THE HELMER FAMILY

By Mrs. Bertha Wilbur Cummings

"History is lacking in much if the participants are not identified and their descendants traced."—Col. O. W. Bell.

The editor of the Helmer Genealogy Mr. Pascoe Williams, asked me to write a sketch of my branch of the Helmer family. For years I searched old records, churches and cemeteries for Helmer data. There was a great deal but it was a tremendous task to sort it out and when I was about to give up in despair my attention was called to The St. Johnsville paper. I put an inquiry in this paper and immediately got in touch with Mr. Williams. He had already collected several thousand Helmer records and had access to the old records in Albany and New York. Only with his assistance were we able to untangle "the web" and piece out bit by bit our line. We had many discouraging experiences as all the older people of my family were gone and valuable records had been lost in a fire. Again and again we were sure we had the line complete only to discover that one link was wrong. This record is not complete yet but we feel that it is almost finished and is accurate as soon as all the descendants send in what they have of their own immediate families.

I wish to pay tribute to my mother, Jane Helmer Wilbur, who gave me what information she could and who inspired me to undertake the task and who passed away before we had learned of Mr. Williams' work. Also to Caroline Helmer Olney of Clayton, who gave me valuable information

before her death; to Ella Anderson Steinburg of Johnstown who loaned the pictures of the great grandparents; and to my uncle, Berton Helmer who helped prove Mr. Williams' records and also gave us valuable information. There are many others among the relatives who have helped by their interest and cooperation. I know we all appreciate the work of Mr. Pascoe Williams, for without his years of labor we could only have traced three generations. Among Revolutionary records are accounts of twenty-seven Helmers who served in the Revolution. Imagine the task of picking the one who was my ancestor.

The Revolutionary Ancestor

John P. Helmer was born in 1758 in the Mohawk Valley. He enlisted early in Colonel Willett's regiment at German Flatts, N. Y. and helped rebuild Fort Stanwix where he fought. In August, 1775 he went into Dubois' regiment. This was disbanded in April, 1777 but he continued in the service and was in Sullivan's expedition as a boatman. Afterwards the Indians carried him a prisoner to Fort Niagara (Canada) and placed him in irons, the scars from which were visible until his death. He was released at the end of the war and in 1790 was in Herkimer, N. Y. On January 15, 1786 he married Maria Wolff. In later years, about 1802 they moved to Manlius, Onondaga County. He is buried in Onondaga county. The following children were born to them:

See Chapter XVIII.

John P. Helmer married Maria Wolff on Jan. 15, 1786. They were

the parents of eleven or twelve children:

1. Philip born June or January 1, 1787.
2. Margaret, born Dec. 28, 1788.
3. Gertrude, born April 3, 1790.
4. Lena, born Nov. 15, 1791.
5. John, born Dec. 15, 1793.
6. Michael, born about 1796.
7. Adam, born?
8. Anna, born Jan. 6, 1802.
9. Elizabeth, (Betsey).
10. Henry, born about 1805.
11. Eva, born about 1807.

Possibly another daughter Maria Catharine, born Aug. 8, 1797.

John Helmer, Jr. married Ann Shaw of North Bush near Johnstown, Oct. 13, 1816. Her father had moved there from Nantucket. When Ann Shaw and John Helmer, Junior were married they drove to Saratoga Springs on their wedding trip.

Old letters state that in her dowry Ann Shaw had real silver spoons and real silk dresses. They had eight children. With the youngest, James a baby in her lap, they moved from Fonda, N. Y. north to Jefferson county where other branches of the family had settled. Great Grandfather John P. Junior had gone on ahead. When Great Grandmother started north she had to go by stage coach the last part of the journey. It was a dark stormy night with bad roads and she wondered if it would be safe to ride with a strange driver, when to her husband. Great Grandfather John her surprise she found the driver was Jr. served in the war of 1812 in Capt. Timmerman's Company. My mother could remember an army overcoat worn by her grandfather that dated back farther than the Civil war. We learned later it was the war of 1812. Mother remembered old German Bibles (Deutsch) with big brass clasps that contained family records. These

were lost when my great grandparents lost all their possessions in a fire. For years we tried in vain to find duplicates of these records and only by untiring patience and perseverance by Mr. Pascoe Williams have we pieced out this record:

1. One daughter Adelia, married Alexander Anderson and lived in Johnstown. Their son Daniel lived and died there. His children live today in Johnstown and Gloversville.

2. Melinda married William Phillips of Manlius, N. Y.

3. William married Adah Milliner of Rochester, N. Y.

4. Marvin married Cordelia Delight Hill of Alexandria, N. Y.

5. Aaron married Margaret Cronkhite, Alexandria, N. Y.

6. John married Eleanor Springer, Alexandria, N. Y.

7. Julia married Sanford George, Alexandria, N. Y.

8. James married three times. First wife 1865, Alice Smith. Second wife Cornelia Smith, N. Y. Third wife Adele Gill of Canada, 1879, lived at Atlanta, Ga.

John Helmer died May 20, 1875 and is buried in the cemetery known as Barnes Settlement, Jefferson County. His wife Ann Shaw who was born in 1800 died in 1887 and is buried there also.

The Mexican War

One son Marvin (my own maternal grandfather) was born in 1825, died 1903. Came north at the age of 14 and lived practically all his life in Jefferson county, town of Alexandria, near Redwood. While a young man he sailed on the Hudson. He began sailing with an uncle. Later he owned some of the sailing ships. Many times he tried to tell his grandchildren stories of his early life, but we were not interested and paid little

attention. How many times since his death we have wished that we had listened and written down what he could have told us. When I was a child I remember him trying to explain to me the differences in a schooner, a brig, etc. He carried supplies, food and ammunition out of New York Bay to ships sailing for Mexico during the Mexican war. The rocks had not been blasted out of the harbor then and his ships sailed out to the larger boats where his cargo was transferred to them. He began buying land in Jefferson county and paying for it while sailing.

Pioneers from Vermont ----

He married a young school teacher, Cordelia Delight Hill, born Oct. 21, 1832, died 1903. She was about 16 when she married. Her parents Jane Smith of Vermont and Luther Manly Hill drove from Vermont in a covered wagon drawn by oxen. The father of Luther Hill was an Englishman and his wife, Ruth Manly was Scotch. They, too, settled in Jefferson county near the Helmers. Marvin Helmer and Cordelia Hill started housekeeping in a house built by them and in this house they lived all their lives and they reared 11 children. There were only three houses in Redwood when they were married. Redwood was their nearest village. Their house was one story and a half Colonial, with a pretty front door, central hall, open stairway and practically all the rooms on the first floor. On each side of the front door grandmother planted locust trees. These grew very large. Here his large family grew up. He kept buying land until he owned 1,000 acres of splendid land. He devoted all his time to farming after his house was built. He built a small house near his for his father and mother who lived there until their deaths.

This farm was almost self supporting. There was an abundance of everything. The farm supplied nearly all their needs. My mother told me how they made their own cheese when she was a little girl. Grandmother had a cheese press. Mother told of the big churn for making butter. They had trained a sheep to do the churning. He walked up and down (tread mill). One of the children had to watch the sheep or he wouldn't work. How they hated the task. The old sheep seemed to know what days he would be needed and would hide from them. My mother, when a little girl, stuffed old clothes to look like a man and placed near the sheep so she could go and play. But he smelled of the clothes, discovered the deception and refused to work for the "dummy."

I remember how we used to rummage in the big attic. There was a loom for weaving and spinning wheels and a trundle bed. Grandfather gave each of his daughters a cow as part of her dowry. Each son had a horse. The house was a large rambling affair. I remember the wide paneled doors with latches, wide flooring boards, the parlor, parlor bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, summer kitchen and three other bedrooms all on the first floor.

Mother told me how she helped make the candles. How they peeled and dried apples for winter. The berries also they dried for winter and the sweet corn was cut from the cob and dried. Grandfather kept many cows, and many horses, also sheep, pigs, chickens. Red plum trees had been planted around the house. They made preserves from them. How much we enjoyed going to Grandpa's.

In summer during school vacations we took turns going to grandfather's. How badly we felt if one grandchild

went "out of turn" or over stayed his time. In winter often my father would hire two horses and a long sleigh and put in hay in the bottom and plenty of blankets and away we would go to grandfather's seven miles away. A good team would get there in an hour if the roads were good. Sometimes when the snow was deep the men drove through fields because the roads might not be opened in several weeks.

In summer grandfather let us ride horseback on some trusty horse. We would get up early and ride to the cheese factory where the milk was carried in big cans. The milk was made up into cheese. Then as we grew older grandfather let us rake hay driving a horse and also let us drive the horses on the horse fork that unloaded the hay.

I remember coaxing grandmother to make salt rising bread for us, as my mother made bread the modern way. Grandfather was fond of "buttermilk pop." I don't know how this dish was prepared. I remember they fixed wilted lettuce, cottage cheese, corn meal bread. Great Grandmother Helmer told a story about feeding a hungry Indian. He came in her home one day when she was alone and asked for food. She was frightened and said, "I haven' t anything but "Injun" bread. Then she feared he would be angry because she said "Injun" bread. But instead he replied "Me Injun, me like Injun bread." When he had finished eating he said "Some day me bring venison," and departed as silently as he came. Many stories were told to the children and grandchildren of the old days in the Mohawk Valley; of Cherry Valley; of Fort Stanwix; General Herkimer and Indian Wars. All the traditions told of the Helmers as valiant soldiers and great fighters. One of our family traditions states that John P. Helmer

Senior who fought in the Revolution was sent out with a gun when a boy of 12 to help fight the Indians. He told of seeing a white man kill an Indian with a hammer. The Indian was burning buildings.

My grandfather (his brother?) lived well and wanted to have his children get an education. The two eldest sons taught school, also one daughter.

Charles, the eldest had an adventurous spirit. He traveled throughout the United States. His son John now lives in Colorado.

Daniel traveled extensively and spent many years in Florida before it was developed. Daniel married Mattie Storing. They had two children, Marvin and Ella. Marvin is now living in Idaho. Ella died several years ago. Her children are in Idaho.

Emma, eldest daughter married Frank Casselman. They lived and died near Alexandria Bay. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary before their death. They have one daughter Ethel.

Sarah married Edward Reynolds. She lived in Alexandria Bay until her death. They have four children, Nettie, Edward, Junior, Harry and Ernest.

Harmon married Caroline Van Dresar. They had four children, Frank, Floyd, Lena and Lora. All living but Lora. The father is dead.

Jane married Byron Wilbur and lived near Alexandria Bay until her death. Four children all living, Gordon, Bertha, Bessie and Marvin.

Percy married Milton Van Dresar. Lived in Alexandria Bay until her death. One daughter survives, Ula.

Virginia married Lewis Scott. Three children survive, Harold, Helen, Milton. Their mother also is buried at Alexandria Bay.

Elsie married Frank Youngs of Redwood. Five children survive, Wil-

liam, Frederick, Beulah, Hava and Ernest. Mother is dead.

Berton the last survivor of this large family is living in Plessis. He married Nellie Hagen. They have eleven children. He was the youngest and remembers many stories of by gone days.

My mother could remember when her mother had blue willow ware dishes, homespun woolen sheets, the feather beds, the grandfather clock, the brass candlesticks, the cord bedsteads.

We still have one of the cord bedsteads. It was a great day for the Helmer family when a man drove into our yard with a new rosewood melodeon. Grandfather paid \$125.00 for it, a great deal of money then. It was the only one in the neighborhood. It was beautifully carved, and was placed in the parlor. All the children played on it, mostly by ear. The boys secured a violin and also played by ear. They were a very lively family and used to sing and dance evenings. Mother told about going to singing schools in winter and also to old fashioned dances. My mother loved music. Although she had never taken many lessons, she played and sang for us when we were children. There was always a big family on grandfather's farm. I remember the long table which usually was "set twice" when there was company. There was always room for company. There was always an abundance. As my grandparents grew older and their own children were grown up, grandmother read a great deal and painted pictures. She taught herself and painted with oil paints. Grandfather told us grandchildren many stories. He was very fond of his children and grandchildren. He was a great worker and even when he was an old man, he continued to drive his horses to town with produce and to do his

share of the farm work. He was short and well built with a pleasing personality. In his latter years he wore his hair quite long and it was snow white.

I remember when the threshers arrived to thresh the grain. The old three horse tread where the horses walked all day without getting anywhere. The hay pressers when men were skillful hay jumpers. The maple sugar time when the syrup was boiled in a huge caldron kettle; the soap making time when a barrel of soft soap was made at one time to last for a year. Grandfather was using some modern machinery when I was a child, that is to cut hay, but when mother was small, it was all cut and raked by hand. There was a big wood lot on this big farm and grandfather let his sons-in-law come and cut all the wood they wanted or had time to cut. Grandfather was a strong prohibitionist. He saw the evils and abuses of alcohol all around him and although reared in a time when there was little prohibition sentiment he never touched intoxicating liquor nor tobacco. His mother, great grandmother Ann Shaw had a strong character. Through many hardships she remained faithful to the end. After her children were grown up and left home, she used to visit her children and grandchildren. She used to knit beautiful lace with fine difficult patterns.

Grandfather (Marvin Helmer) lived only nine months after grandmother's death. My grandfather could not carry on the farm any longer. None of the children were situated so they could take it over, so much to our sorrow the old home was sold to strangers. The house modernized so that it is no longer attractive. In fact it no longer seems like grandfather's and instead of driving by there we go the "other way."

We only recently learned from the St. Johnsville paper that the Casselmans and Van Dresars mentioned in this article were also descendants of the Palatines and must have come north to Jefferson county from the Mohawk Valley. It is interesting to study those old records and see where these families served in the same regiments, during the Revolutionary War.

The Wilburs mentioned in this article are also descended from early settlers who came to America in 1668 and took an active part in the early history of Rhode Island. Gideon, son of Captain Aaron Wilbur, Junior, officer in the Revolution married a descendant of the Palatines, Hannah Conrad. Marvin Wilbur, brother of the writer of this article is married to a Palatine descendant, Edna Schramm. The Kocherthal records tell of Schramm, Casselman, Helmer, Van Drieser families among those who came over in 1710 and helped settle Central New York. An outstanding characteristic among the Helmers is that they have never been self-seeking, nor anxious at any cost to achieve fame or popularity. Each has been ever anxious and zealous to be faithful "in a few things", to love his or her home and strive to make their children good citizens and to share with others less fortunate and to love the higher things of life.

They lived the spirit of Van Dyke's poem:

"Let me but do my work from day
to day
In field or forest or at the desk or
loom
In roaring market place or in the
tranquil room,
Let me but find it in my heart to say
When vagrant wishes beckon me
astray.

"This is my task—my blessing not my
doom
Of all who live I am the one by whom

This work can best be done in the
right way."

We grandchildren had many uncles and aunts and cousins to visit or to have them visit us. We often had reunions, picnics, and anniversaries. Grandfather and grandmother celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary five years before they died. They with their parents and their children are buried in the little rural cemetery in their old neighborhood. Grandmother died from an attack of pneumonia. Grandfather only lived nine months longer. He passed away in his sleep. Both died in the year 1903. There were strong family ties, abundance of hospitality, service and loyalty to each other and hard work and self denial. From those Palatines we the descendants still inherit a love for the country they helped to build. We hope to be true to the ideals they handed down to us, and be faithful to our homes, our schools, our churches, our Country. How thankful we should be to have for our inheritance ancestors who suffered such hardships, practiced such self denial, who gave their all to their Country and who in time of peace became good solid trustworthy citizens of their country.

We, the grandchildren and great grandchildren are striving to carry on and follow the teachings of the prophet Micah, "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to deal justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God."

Among the grandchildren and great grandchildren of Marvin and Cordelia Helmer, five (5) served in the World War. Four are sailors, engineers of boats that sail the Great Lakes. Four are school teachers, several in business and professions and many others engaged in agriculture.

This record is far from complete. The women mostly are home makers.

There are cousins in far away cities. There is much information that the writer was unable to get.

BERTHA WILBUR CUMMINGS.
Cortland, N. Y.
January 16, 1932.

FINAL CHAPTER

The Beautiful Mohawk Valley

Two hundred and seven years ago Governor William Burnett of the Province of New York granted to ninety-two persons a patent to a tract of land on both sides of the Mohawk River in what is now the County of Herkimer. It was then known as the Burnettsfield Patent. A settlement and been made here a few years earlier, probably about 1722.

The names appearing on that patent over two hundred years ago are still familiar to the Mohawk Valley and descendnts are to be found in almost every state of the Union and in Canada. Bell, Bellinger, Casler, Dockstader, Demuth, Edick, Folts, Fox, Fulmer, Hager, Harter, Helmer, Hess, Kast, Orendorf, Petry, Schumacher, Smith, Spohn, Staring, Weaver and Wollober are names that are still found in almost every town of the valley.

Those pioneers of 1725 faced conditions that the present generation finds hard to realize. Let us stop to consider the tremendous changes that have taken place since that little band of Palatines settled on what was then the far western frontier. Can we picture that vast unbroken forest peopled by savage Indians and savage beasts? There was no settlement to the west and they were exposed to the attacks of hostile French in Canada. One hundred years before the coming of the first railroad, they little knew that the Mohawk Valley was to become one of the greatest commercial thoroughfares in the world.

Today six lines of railroad tracks traverse its entire length carrying the fastest and finest express trains ever built. New York State's wonderful Barge Canal constructed at a cost of over \$175,000,000 carries immense cargoes of freight and grain through the valley. Beautiful concrete roads on each side of the Mohawk river permit the automobilist to travel the entire length of this valley in a few hours. A journey of three hours through this valley today would have taken more than that number of days for the early pioneers.

The province of New York was sparsely settled and the journey from one settlement to another was an event oftentimes accompanied with dangers.

There is no reliable data as to the population of the Province of New York in 1725 when the patent was granted at German Flatts. The first census was made sixty five years later in 1790 and gave the State of New York a population of 340,120. New York city had a little more than 32,000 inhabitants according to that census.

The Causes of the Palatine Immigration

Why did they settle in the Mohawk Valley? Why face the privations of a new world? They knew that dangers lurked in the forests surrounding their settlement, but they were not turned from their purpose.

The first immigration from Germany to the Province of New York occurred about the year 1708. History tells us that for nearly one hundred years prior to that time the Lower Palatinate of Germany had been the scene of religious wars. To ascertain the cause of those religious wars one must go back to about the year 1517 to the outbreak of the Protestant Reformation under Martin Luther, an Augustinian friar and professor of

theology in the University of Wittenburg, Saxony. There was not the religious tolerance at that time that we have today. Reformed and Lutheran churches were established under difficulties. Freedom of worship was little known and their religion was usually dominated by the ruling sovereign.

In 1689 the Lower Palatinate of Germany was invaded by the French, many of its towns were burned, the country devastated and the defenseless inhabitants who begged for mercy on their knees, were stripped naked and driven into the fields, then covered with snow where many of them perished.

Such had been the history of that company of Palatines who came to America from 1708 to 1720. The dangers of the New World did not deter them in their efforts to find a place to build their homes where they could worship as they pleased. They were a home loving, God fearing, hard working and peaceful people. They worked with diligence and soon made rapid progress in clearing farms, building homes and converting the Mohawk valley into a prosperous community.

The Mohawk Valley Churches

Soon after the first settlements in the Valley these Palatines began their plans for the erection of churches. The first church at German Flatts was organized about 1723 and that at Stone Arabia about 1725. The first church buildings, constructed of wood were later replaced by substantial stone buildings, that of German Flatts being completed some time prior to 1767 and that of Stone Arabia about 1788.

Each of these churches should be a shrine to which every descendant of the Mohawk Valley should some day make a visit. Those beautiful old stone churches stand today, monu-

ments to the faith of those early pioneers. If the stones of those old churches could speak, what a story they would tell! From the earliest civilization of the Mohawk Valley to the present time; what a change.

The Mohawk Valley History

History relates there were several raids by the French and Indians upon the Mohawk Valley in 1757 and 1758 during the French and Indian wars and many of the inhabitants were killed or carried into captivity.

During the Revolution raids by the Tories and Indians were frequent and many of the inhabitants were killed.

At the Battle of Oriskany August 6, 1777 850 men were under the command of General Herkimer, but the names of only about 500 who participated are known. The names of the other 350 men who fought in that battle have not been ascertained.

So many of the old church records have been lost that little is known of the history of the early families of the valley. Patents, deeds, wills and old church records contain valuable information but much is lacking concerning their early history from 1725 to the outbreak of the Revolution.

The Rangers or Scouts of the Revolution

A valuable source of information is found in the old pension records of the soldiers of the Revolution. They give interesting accounts of the happenings of that period. Each pension record is interesting in itself.

In the papers accompanying the pension application of Anna Bellinger, widow of Lieutenant Adam F. Helmer, interesting accounts are given of the comparatively unknown rangers or scouts commanded by Captain John Breadbake. This company was raised and officered under the direction of the committee of safety. The

Militia was divided in classes of eight or ten men and each class was obliged to furnish one man for service in the company of rangers. In this manner a company of rangers, guards or scouts was raised for the perilous task of spying upon the enemy, carrying messages and giving alarms of the approach of danger.

Captain John Breadbake commanded the company of rangers and Lieutenant Adam F. Helmer was second in command. It was difficult to raise volunteers in this company until it was known who would be the officers. John Breakbake was a well to do farmer and had many servants. He was greatly esteemed by the soldiers and as the result of his popularity volunteers were more readily procured.

The rangers were on guard day and night and the safety of the valley depended upon their alertness. Captain Breadbake accompanied his men on many of their scouting trips and was popular for the reason he led his men through many dangers and difficulties.

Pension of the Widow Helmer

Anna Bellinger, widow of Lieutenant Adam F. Helmer, made an application for pension on December 15, 1837. It was a long heart breaking struggle for recognition and her pension was not granted until over four years after her death.

Her husband had endured every hardship during the war. He had spent several years as a lieutenant in a Company of Rangers, on guard day and night. These guards had no time to devote to their own occupations but were continually on watch for the enemies and Tories.

Three times his house and all his belongings had been burned by the enemy, but each time he escaped. He almost seemed to bear a charmed life. He was never recompensed for

his losses and received but little pay for his services.

Anna Bellinger, his widow, died January 25, 1841, nearly eleven years after her husband's death in April, 1830. Her pension was granted February 15, 1845 over four years after her death and over seven years after her application was made. Difficulty in proving her marriage and inability to produce her husband's commission seemed to have been the cause of the delay in granting her a pension.

Eighteen affidavits extending over a period of seven years were on record as proof of her pension claim. Many of these affidavits were executed by soldiers of the Revolution, several being pensioners. They give accounts of battles in which these pensioners fought and tell of the service of Adam F. Helmer.

The Rosecrants Affidavits

In order to prove her marriage the widow Helmer procured two affidavits giving the record of her marriage as recorded in the original church records. The first of these in 1838 was by George Rosencrants, son of the Reverend Abraham Rosencrants who was the minister of the German Flatts Reformed Church for a period of forty-four years from 1752 to 1796. The second affidavit in 1839 was by a grandson Abraham G. Rosencrants into whose hands the church records had been placed for safe keeping nearly forty years after his grandfather's death.

These affidavits as well as those of Revolutionary pensioners and of persons present at her marriage were procured to prove her pension claim. They extended over a period of seven years and show the difficulty encountered in obtaining Revolutionary War pensions.

Affidavits of Revolutionary Soldiers

The pension claims of several of the Revolutionary soldiers relate incidents about the Battle of Oriskany. They give the names of several who were in that battle who have not been previously recorded.

Helmer Family Reunion

Suggestions have come from several sources that a Helmer family reunion be held in the Mohawk Valley at some time in the near future.

The Helmer family is probably one of the largest families that originated in the Mohawk Valley.

So far as the writer knows, every person by the name of Helmer traces his ancestry back to the Mohawk valley. It is fitting that such a large family should again unite in a common cause to perpetuate and complete the history of this family. There are many branches of this family yet to

be traced out, and it will require the united efforts of all those interested to complete these records. Descendants are urged to add as much additional information as possible.

Conclusion

The writer wishes to thank many members of the Helmer family for their generous aid in furnishing records. Without such aid the list of unidentified Helmers would have been much greater.

The writer extends to the publisher of the Enterprise & News the thanks of the entire Helmer family for the publication of these articles. Without such an opportunity as has been given by the publisher there would not have been the interest shown nor the means by which much of this information could have been procured.

THE END



OAKHILL

Dear Mr. MacWethy
St. Johnsville, N. Y.

Mr. Williams has asked for biographical sketches relating to the Helmer family and I believe the following may be of considerable interest, especially to the descendants of Steuben Helmer. It is copied from a memorial volume of about 400 pages, published in 1880 and entitled, Charles D. Helmer, 'an Earnest Life of Faith by Grace.

The volume is largely a collection of sermons and poetical writings. Reverend Charles D. Helmer was a graduate of Yale, class of 1852. He then studied abroad at Heidelberg and

Berlin and from 1859 to 1879 was pastor of the Plymouth Church (Congregational), Milwaukee, The Union Park Church, Chicago and The Tompkins Avenue Church, Brooklyn. The introduction by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher says, in part, of Rev. Helmer: "He possessed uncommon intellectual gifts and they had been thoroughly trained. He was a close thinker, an able reasoner, fluent with pen or voice and had his health been firm he would have left behind him works worthy of his great ability."

Cordially y yours,
JOHN H. HELMER.

Evanston, Ill.
Oct. 12, 1931.

CHARLES OWNES HELMER

Charles Downes Helmer was born on the 18th of November, 1827 at Oakhill in the town of Canajoharie, Montgomery County, New York. He was the fourth born of nine children, having seven brothers and one sister, all of whom but one, a brother, are still living. (1880).

His father Steuben Helmer was descended from one of the Palatine families that came over from Germany during the colonial period and settled in the inviting valley of the Mohawk near the ground now covered by the village of Fort Plain.

The father is said to have been a man of very marked character. Although he had enjoyed as a youth only such scanty advantages as were

afforded by the common schools of that time, and was obliged to spend nearly all of his after years in wringing from an obstinate farm the bare necessities of life for his large family, he nevertheless, by the careful reading and study of a few good books, and by making the best use of whatever opportunities came within his reach, succeeded in attaining a position of honor and influence in the community, "which was of more value to his children," says one of them, "than any other legacy he could have left them.

For many years he was a public magistrate and so sturdy was his integrity and his judgment so fair, that his neighbors for miles around sought his trusty services whenever they had contracts, deeds, mortgages or wills

to be drawn up, or estates to be administered. Even when, after crossing the advanced line of three score years and ten. He left his eastern home to spend the remnant of his days among some of his children in the western part of the state, he was obliged to relinquish the office of executor in a number of estates.

That the example of such a father in the business affairs of life made a deep impression upon the son who is the subject of this sketch cannot be doubted.

The boy's mother Frances Mulford Helmer was a native of East Hampton, Long Island and for several years prior to her marriage a member of the church of which the famous Doctor Lyman Beecher was pastor. To the instruction and guidance of her children she brought a rare natural endowment of mental and moral qualities, all developed to a high degree under the ministrations of that grand old pulpit king.

The home in which those boyhood days were spent was a plain farmer's house, where the good effects of temperate, regular habits were experienced and where simple rustic duties were performed from day to day by all members of the household. It was a quiet, secluded spot where young Helmer learned the real dignity of labor, and where a sympathy for those whose lives are spent in hard manual toil was kindled, which never in after years burned out, as we shall see on more than one occasion.

I have spoken of the old house as lowly—lowly only in its structure and occupations, however, not in its situation, for that was lofty, as it was perched on the summit of Oakhill at an elevation of hundreds of feet above the valley of the Mohawk.

Remembering, as we do, what a fine inbred love of nature characterized Mr. Helmer, we can easily im-

agine that when a boy he often stood in his father's door yard or sat perched on one of the fences, following with his admiring eye the pleasant land as it sloped gradually down in every direction—down to the Mohawk, which flowed seven miles to the north, down eastward, southward and westward to a winding stream called Bowman's Creek. Beyond this stream the land rose again in a high mountain range, a spur of the romantic Catskills, which did not disgrace its illustrious parentage. Starting from its nearest point in the south, the enraptured youth could follow it away for miles on either side and around almost in the form of a crescent until its sharp, clear outline softened and faded into a dim, ethereal vision of beauty.

Now when we find Mr. Helmer in the last year of his life, while writing from the White Mountains, speak of their magnificent prospects as "the nourishers of soul and character" can we doubt that he, with his observing eye and susceptible mind, derived much of his remarkable strength and breadth of character from these superb surroundings of his early home? Still less can we doubt that the rare poetic faculty that he afterwards developed was first stirred within him by the marvelous and ever changing landscape that lay within the scope of his vision.

Before we turn away from these material surroundings of our youth, we must trace yet another important influence that came in upon him thru the medium of their famed historic associations. I have recorded that his German ancestors had helped to form a colonial settlement on the banks of the Mohawk and now it is to be added that, in common with all their neighbors, they suffered great hardships, first during the French and Indian Wars and afterwards in

the war of the Revolution. During the boyhood of Mr. Helmer there was a revered grandmother in the household—a lingering relic of the olden time—and thrilling were the stories often told by her to the children by the winter fireside, especially thrilling when she recounted the cruelties perpetrated by that notorious half-breed Brant, and his Indian hordes at Cherry Valley and along the Mohawk. These stories were easily drawn from her remote childhood and as readily taken in by her youthful listeners, as Cherry Valley was only three miles away to the south and the Mohawk but seven miles distant to the north. Here, then, were the springs of that passionate love of country which, from a mountain brook, grew into a broad deep river with Mr. Helmer's advancing years—here in these fire-side tales of his childhood and in the historic associations that trailed along all the neighboring streams and over all the adjacent hills.

CHAPTER XIII (Extended)

ADDITIONAL DESCENDANTS OF PHILIP F. HELMER, REVOLU- TIONARY SOLDIER

Byron Howe

Page. 145. Byron Howe, born 1838, son of Gertrude (Charity) Helmer and Ira Burch Howe, married about 1865 Emily Trowbridge. They were the parents of four children:

1. Charles who married first Agnes Gallagher and second
2. Isabelle who married a Mr. Buck.
3. Ella who married a Mr. Rice.

Aaron Howe

Page 145. Aaron Howe, born 1840, son of Gertrude (Charity) Helmer and Ira Burch Howe, married about 1874

Cyanthia Jane Dunivan. They were the parents of three children:

1. Mabel who married Walter Houghton.
2. Irene, who married a Mr. Patterson. One son Merton.
3. Claire, who married George Baldrige. Now living at Kansas City, Missouri.

Ira Clark Howe

Page 145. Ira Clark Howe, born 1846 died 1906, son of Gertrude (Charity) Helmer and Ira Burch Howe, married 1870 Louisa Peirce at Ottawa, Illinois. Louisa Peirce was the daughter of George W. Peirce. Ira Clark Howe served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Ira Clark Howe and his wife Louisa Peirce were the parents of eight children:

1. Walter Clark, born 1871. Died 1885.
2. George Burch, born 1873. Died 1885.
3. Anna Peirce who married Frank B. Williams. Now living at Dexter, N. Y. Three children, Leonard who died 1926, leaving one son Leon. Amy who married Donald Anderson, now living in Detroit, Mich., and have three children, Richard, Roberta and Carl. Adelaide who married Alfred Sargent now living at Limerick, N. Y. and have one son William.
4. Amy Louise who married Charles Albert Burnett and is now living at Lost Angeles, California. One son, William Ross.

5. Adelaide who married Vinton Earl Sission and is now living at Winnetka, Ill. One daughter Muriel Adele who married Forrest Eugene Peirce and now living in Chicago, Ill.

6. William Peirce, unmarried and living at Webster Groves, Mo.

7. Nellie Peirce, who married Alexander S. Palmateer and is now living at Solana Beach, California.

8. Ira Burch II, who married Florence Wasserman and is now living at Kirkwood, Mo. Four children, Ira Burch III, Mary Louise, Bernard and Amy Read.

CHAPTER XX (Extended)
ADDITIONAL DESCENDANTS OF
JOSEPH HELMER, REVOLU-
TIONARY SOLDIER

Louise Helmer

Page 83. Louise Helmer, born December 24, 1828, daughter of Gilbert Warden Helmer and Margaret Walradt, married first December 21, 1848 Peter Yerdon, born January 12, 1823 and died February 6, 1880. She married second October 26, 1891 William Hall who died May 21, 1912. Louise Helmer died November 11, 1911.

Louise Helmer and her first husband Peter Yerdon were the parents of seven children.

1. Mary Margaret, born October 19, 1849.
2. Helen Philene, born February 23, 1852.
3. Julia Amelia, born August 1, 1854.
4. Jonas Adam, born April 1, 1857.
5. Gilbert Joseph, born February 7, 1863.
6. John Levi, born September 12, 1868.
7. Ralph Peter, born June 19, 1871.

Mary Margaret Yerdon

Mary Margaret Yerdon, born October 19, 1849, daughter of Louise Helmer and Peter Yerdon, married August 9, 1866 John J. Moore. They were the parents of seven children:

1. Worden Leroy, born March 18, 1869. Died in infancy.
2. Ozro Burton, born May 17, 1871.
3. Lizzie Iola, born February 2, 1874.
4. Theodore Ray, born May 11, 1880.

5. Elsie Louisa, born July 10, 1883.
6. Leo King, born December 5, 1888. Died 1908.
7. Guy Leonard, born May 16, 1895.

Helen Philene Yerdon

Helen Philene Yerdon, born February 23, 1852, daughter of Louise Helmer and Peter Yerdon, married May 28, 1875 Oscar B. Coleman. She died April 15, 1926. They were the parents of one daughter:

1. Lena May.

Julia Amelia Yerdon

Julia Amelia Yerdon, born August 1, 1854, daughter of Louise Helmer and Peter Yerdon, married August 19, 1869 John C. Rice (or Rowe). She died January 25, 1903. They were the parents of one daughter:

1. Mary A.

Jonas Adam Yerdon

Jonas Adam Yerdon, born April 1, 1857, son of Louise Helmer and Peter Yerdon, married April 2, 1883 Susie E. Vincent. He died May 11, 1924.

They were the parents of one son:

1. Herbert, born September 16, 1887, who married Rose Riggles. They have one adopted daughter.

Gilbert Joseph Yerdon

Gilbert Joseph Yerdon, born February 7, 1863, son of Louise Helmer and Peter Yerdon, married March 5, 1883 Arie L. Hooper at Gerry, N. Y.

They have three children:

1. Roy Clarence, born October 13, 1884.
2. Willis L., born November 7, 1886.
3. Florence B., born September 29, 1888.

John Levi Yerdon

John Levi Yerdon, born September 12, 1868, son of Louise Helmer and Peter Yerdon, married December 30, 1891 Elizabeth E. Hyatt. Now living

at Bradford, Pennsylvania.

They were the parents of four children:

1. James Floyd, born March 26, 1893. Died March 15, 1895.
2. Archie Lloyd, born April 2, 1894.
3. Harold John, born February 18, 1910.
4. Edith Elizabeth, born April 30, 1912.

Ralph Peter Yerdon

Ralph Peter Yerdon, born June 19, 1871, son of Louise Helmer and Peter Yerdon, married August 21, 1895 Josephine Ryan. No children.

Ozro Burton Moore

Ozro Burton Moore, born May 17, 1871, son of Mary Margaret Yerdon and John J. Moore, married December 27, 1899 Emily Maud Hyatt who was born October 10, 1878.

They are the parents of nine children.

1. Max Burton, born October 3, 1900. Married November 19, 1923 Emily Irene Banks. One son Gayle Francis born February 6, 1927.
2. Lucy Margaret, born February 22, 1902. Married May 26, 1924 Oscar Albert Johnson. One daughter Emily Josephine, born January 9, 1927.
3. Ethel Maud, born January 8, 1904. Married June 30, 1930 Raymond Minerdt Dalton. One son Raymond Minerdt, Jr., born March 15, 1926.
4. Ruth Emily, born February 9, 1906.
5. Ralph Edgar, born August 4, 1908.
6. Helen Genevieve, born December 13, 1910. Married September 2, 1930 David James McIntyre.
7. Donald James, born February 28, 1913.
8. Howard John, born June 1, 1917.
9. Allan Hyatt, born July 27, 1920.

Lizzie Iola Moore

Lizzie Iola Moore, born February 2, 1874, daughter of Mary Margaret Yerdon and John J. Moore, married Au-

gust 9, 1898 Harvey S. Hausman. They are the parents of one son:

1. Raymond H.

Theodore Ray Moore

Theodore Ray Moore, born May 11, 1880, son of Mary Margaret Yerdon and John J. Moore, married October 9, 1904 Elizabeth May Cotten. They are the parents of three children:

1. Dorothy Emily, born July 30, 1905.
2. Kenneth Ray, born March 8, 1908.
3. Febian David, born May 17, 1911.

Elsie Louisa Moore

Elsie Louisa Moore, born July 10, 1883, daughter of Mary Margaret Yerdon and John J. Moore married 1904 David Hamilton Culbertson. They are the parents of six children:

1. John Mullin, born 1905. Married 1927 Ella Wahn.
2. Eila Mary, born 1907. Married 1923 Plumer Moorehead Printz. One daughter, Sara Patricia, born 1924.
3. Clarence Lamont, born 1908. Married 1930 Catherine Mary Morrison. One daughter Corinne Ann born 1930.
4. Lillian Loretta, born 1910. Married 1930 Edward C. Walker. One daughter Elsie M., born 1930.
5. Neil King, born 1912.
6. Homer Leroy, born 1915.

Guy Leonard Moore

Guy Leonard Moore, born May 16, 1895, son of Mary Margaret Yerdon and John J. Moore, married June 9, 1915 Mary R. Steinour.

They are the parents of four children:

1. Evelyn Verna.
2. Doris Leah.
4. Mary Margaret.
5. Martha Roe.

Roy Clarence Yerdon

Roy Clarence Yerdon, born October 13, 1884, son of Gilbert Joseph Yerdon

and Arie L. Hooper, married April 30, 1908 Daisy M. Short at Buffalo, N. Y.

They are the parents of three children:

1. Dorothy May, born July 9, 1909. Married April 4, 1931 Lloyd M. Miller at Jamestown, N. Y.

2. Lucille Mary, born March 22, 1917.

3. Gerald Gilbert, born November 22, 1919.

Willis L. Yerdon

Willis L. Yerdon, born November 7, 1886, son of Gilbert Joseph Yerdon and Arie L. Hooper, married May 3, 1915 Grace E. Woodworth at Cleveland, Ohio.

They are the parents of three children.

1. Hazel A., born August 1, 1916.

2. Glen W., born August 4, 1923.

Archie Lloyd Yerdon

Archie Lloyd Yerdon, born April 2, 1894, son of John Levi Yerdon and Elizabeth E. Hyatt, married July 12, 1922 Anna Belle Laughlin.

They are the parents of four children:

1. Mary Elizabeth, born August 26, 1924.

2. Virginia Ann, born October 21, 1925.

3. Christine Louise, born March 9, 1927.

4. Gloria Jean, born July 11, 1930.

CHAPTER XXV. (Extended)) ADDITIONAL DESCENDANTS OF JOHN HELMER AND ANN SHAW

James Harrison Helmer

Page 105. James Harrison Helmer, the youngest child of John Helmer and Ann Shaw was born January 7, 1837 at Johnstown, Fulton county, N. Y.

He was married three times, a portion of which record having been previously given.

James Harrison Helmer was of an adventurous spirit and about 1856 at the age of nineteen years went with John Cosgrove, a young neighbor to Pike's Peak in search of gold. There they found untold hardships but no gold. On their return trip their food gave out and for two days they lived on wild onions. Although James Helmer lived to be 76 he never again ate an onion.

During this hard trip home John Cosgrove was taken sick and James Helmer carried him on his back for miles. A long line of empty wagons passed the two youths, but the last wagon halted and the driver took the two boys on their way.

When James Helmer was twenty-one years of age he left his home again, near Redwood, N. Y. and this time went to California. While there he became acquainted with a family named Schmidt who traveled in a covered wagon from Kentucky. He married their daughter Alice Schmidt and made his home at Marysville, Calif. for eighteen years. By his first marriage he had two daughters. His wife died in California and he returned to Redwood, N. Y., bringing his two daughters with him. It took eight days to make the journey and the last twenty-five miles had to be made by stage coach.

James Helmer married second in 1875 Cornelia Fitzpatrick Smith, the daughter of Rev. Smith of Carthage, N. Y. She died about two years later and is buried in Carthage, N. Y.

James Helmer married third in 1879 Adell Gill of Brockville, Ontario, Canada. Adell Gill Hemer was a prominent club woman and interested in civic improvements both in city and state.

James Hemer engaged in business

in Redwood for a time where he was a partner in a general store. Later he engaged in buying and selling cattle wholesale. He was one of the pioneer cattle buyers in Jefferson county and shipped carloads of cattle to New York city, Albany and other places.

The spirit of adventure again seized him and with his wife Adell Gill moved to Atlanta, Georgia where he was engaged in mining and agriculture. Here he lived the remainder of his life and with his wife is buried in West View cemetery, Atlanta, Georgia.

Children:

Jabes Harrison Helmer and his first wife Alice Smidt were the parents of two daughters, both born at Marysville, Calif.:

1. Emma, born January 9, 1869.
2. Anna, born December 19, 1870.

James Harrison Helmer and his third wife Adell Gill were the parents of five children:

1. Lillian Mary, born at Redwood, N. Y., October 4, 1880.
2. Mabel Irene, born at Redwood, N. Y., March 1, 1882.
3. Claude Ernest, born at Philadelphia, N. Y., October 4, 1883.
4. Violet Clare, born December 14, 1889 at Atlanta, Georgia. She died August 1, 1906 at the age of 17 years and is buried in West View cemetery, Atlanta, Georgia.
5. James Harry, Jr., born October 31, 1891 at Decatur, Georgia.

Emma Helmer

Emma Helmer, born January 9, 1869 daughter of James Harrison Helmer and his first wife Alice Smidt married William Fowler Brown of Alexandria Bay, N. Y. They were the parents of four children:

1. Howard, born at Theresa, N. Y. Died at the age of eight years.
2. Fred, born at Theresa, N. Y., died at the age of six months.

Leslie Harper, born at Theresa, N. Y. Married Vaughn Livermore of Dexter, N. Y. One daughter, Carol Jean, born January 14, 1925.

4. Carlton J., born at Dexter, N. Y. Emma Helmer Brown with her children and grandchildren now reside at Dexter, N. Y.

Anna Helmer

Anna Helmer, born December 19, 1870, daughter of James Harrison Helmer and his first wife Alice Smidt, married Herbert J. Walker of Theresa, N. Y.

They were the parents of there children:

1. Glenn Hartwood, born August 28, 1895, at Theresa, N. Y.
2. Another son born at Theresa who died in infancy.
3. Margaret Frances, born August 11, 1898 at Theresa, N. Y. She married Ross Arthur Liddle of Brownsville, N. Y.

Anna Helmer Walker and Margaret Frances Liddle and their families reside at Dexter, N. Y.

Lillian Mary Helmer

Lillian Mary Helmer, born October 4, 1880, daughter of James Harrison Helmer and his third wife Adell Gill married first Robert Early Church of Atlanta, Georgia. She married second Charles Edgar Davidson of Canastota, N. Y. where they now reside.

Lillian Mary Helmer and her first husband Robert Early Church were the parents of two daughters:

1. Charlotte.
2. Mabel.

Mabel Irene Helmer

Mabel Irene Helmer, born March 1, 1882, daughter of James Harrison Helmer and his third wife Adell Gill, married Eugene H. Graves of Atlanta, Georgia.

They were the parents of three children all born at Atlanta:

1. Helmer Horace, born January 27, 1906. Married and now living at Atlanta, Georgia.

2. Irene Junella, born June 2, 1908. Married Alvin Sansing and is now living at Atlanta, Georgia. One daughter Mabel Emily born July 21, 1931.

3. Wilmer.

Claude Ernest Helmer

Claude Ernest Helmer, born October 4, 1883, son of James Harrison Helmer and his third wife Adell Gill, married Clara B. Carnes of Kenwood, Georgia. Claude E. Helmer died in June, 1929 and is buried at Kenwood, Georgia. They were the parents of one son:

1. Percy, now living at Atlanta, Ga.

James H. Helmer, Jr.

James H. Helmer, Jr., born October 31, 1891, son of James Harrison Helmer and his third wife Adell Gill, married Mary Gower of Pantherville, Georgia and is now living at Atlanta, Georgia. They are the parents of two daughters:

1. Anna Adell.

2. Mary Doris.

Daniel M. Helmer

Page 106. Daniel M. Helmer, son of Marvin Helmer and Cordelia Hill, married Mattie E. Staring.

They were the parents of two children:

1. Marvin C., born February 18, 1888.

2. Elinor M., born May 20, 1889.

Marvin C. Helmer

Marvin C. Helmer, son of Daniel M. Helmer and Mattie E. Staring, was born February 18, 1888. He married

March 2, 1917 Mae M. Whooley and is now living at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

They are the parents of three children:

1. Marvin Curtis, born September 16, 1918.

2. Frances C., born November 12, 1919.

3. Grace Elinor, born July 10, 1924.

Elinor M. Helmer

Elinor M. Helmer, daughter of Daniel M. Helmer and Mattie E. Staring, was born May 20, 1889. She married June, 1913, Charles B. Harting.

They are the parents of three children:

1. Ruth Elinor, born August 7, 1914.

2. Marvin Curtis, born June 25, 1917.

3. Sherman Bruce, born November 17, 1921.

Virginia E. Helmer

Page 105. Virginia E. Helmer, born August 2, 1871, daughter of Marvin Helmer and Cordelia Hill, married November 30, 1892, Lewis A. Scott, born February 26, 1875 who now resides at Syracuse, N. Y. Virginia E. Helmer died April 1, 1917 and is buried at Alexandria Bay, N. Y.

They are the parents of three children:

1. Harold L., born May 9, 1894. Married January 30, 1922 and is now living at Camden, N. Y.

2. Helen M., born September 17, 1899. Married June 11, 1920 Charles D. Storey, and is now living at Syracuse, N. Y. One son C. DeForest, born August 29, 1921.

3. Milton R., born September 27, 1902. Married October 17, 1923 and is now living at Durango, Colorado.

Berton Helmer

Page 105. Berton Helmer, son of Marvin Helmer and Cordelia Hill, married Nellie Hagen and is now liv-

ing at Plessis, Jefferson county, N. Y.

They were the parents of eleven children:

1. Berton, Jr., born June 2, 1902.
2. Ralph, born August 25, 1903.
3. Irene, born March 2, 1906.
4. Catherine, born October 31, 1908.
5. Wellington, born April 19, 1911.
6. Glenn, born April 30, 1913.
7. Guy, born October 2, 1915.
8. Garland, born September 27, 1918.
9. Ernest, born June 22, 1920.
10. John H., born April 26, 1923.
11. George J., born April 19, 1927.

THE BATTLE OF MOTHER (MUDDER) CREEK

Comment on Discrepancies as Recorded by Various Historians. The Killing of an Indian by Lt. Adam (Scout) Helmer.

(By Lt. Commander L. F. Bellinger)
Dear Editor:

Note well and closely the affidavit of Peter W. Fox among the pension papers of Adam Helmer which is found on p. 140 in this volume. Many historians in the valley have delighted to tell the romantic story of Peggy Bellinger and Philip Helmer, just as they thought they heard it. W. L. Stone had in his possession (1837) statements of Lt. Jacob Sammons and of Col. Wm. Feeter, from which statements he made out a dreadful case of inhumanity on the part of Philip Helmer who killed the Indian, his recent comrade, while the latter was "begging for quarter." When "mob frenzy" takes possession of a crowd of human beings the result is deplorable from any standpoint, as in the incidents of Fort Pillow (Civil War) and the lynchings at Coatesville, Pa. and Herrin, Ill. The terrible massacre at Wyoming, Pa. 1778 is no excuse for individual savagery. In two families we have traditions of a Tory

brother scalping his own sister, ie. two cases, but Philip Helmer's case is not that bad. The story given by W. L. Stone follows as brought out by Prof. Hess. Stone was good in forming readable sentences but poor in presenting correct impressions on the reader. W. L. Stone's account of the Battle at Mother Creek and the Peggy Bellinger Romance (Life of Brant II, 160 1781).

"Shortly after the irruption of Doxtader, there was another descent of Indians and Tories upon Palatine, which was an event of more singularity than importance. A son of Colonel Jacob Klock with several of his Tory friends went off to Canada. He returned in about four weeks with a band of Indians and Tories to fall upon the settlement and encamped for one night in the vicinity of his own neighborhood. During the night one of the number, Philip Helmer, having discovered that a part of their object was to plunder and murder the family of his relative, John Bellinger determined to save that family. Taking a young Indian with him, therefore, under the pretext of reconnoitering the settlement, he proceeded so near to some of the houses that the Indian, becoming suspicious ran back to his comrades. Helmer's object was to surrender himself and cause the Indian to be taken prisoner and he accordingly delivered himself up to Judge Nellis. Expresses were immediately sent to Fort Plain and Stone Arabia for assistance and the enemy finding themselves betrayed took to the woods. Lieutenant Sammons with twenty-five men was ordered by Colonel Willett to go in pursuit and so rapid were they of foot as to arrive at the enemy's encampment before his fires had gone out. William Feeter, with six other volunteers, was sent forward to keep his trail. In about two miles after entering the woods,

most luckily they discovered a number of the Indians lying flat upon the ground. The latter no sooner discerned Feeter's approach than they rose and fired; but one of their number having fallen grievously wounded by the return fire of Feeter's party, while they were stooping down to reload, they sprang to their feet and fled—Tories and all—leaving their provisions, knapsacks and some of their muskets. They ran down a steep hill and were measurably shielded from Feeter's fire by the thickness of the shrubbery and trees. One of them gave himself up as a prisoner; three more were wounded and died on their way to Canada. The poor Indian first wounded was put to death by Helmer who ran up and despatched him while he was begging for quarter!" (Note—Narrative of Col. Wm. Feeter in the author's possession and also of Jacob Sammons. Col. Feeter is yet living 1837)."

Beers' History of Montgomery Co. p. 55 and p. 171 permits Philip Helmer to kill a wounded Indian (not very civilized) and gives Peggy Bellinger to the family of Philip Bellinger, and the farm was in 1879 "where Menzo Smith lives." If Menzo lived along Mother Creek, Beers did not make three mistakes in this story, he made only two!

(Editor's Note—The battle occurred on the farm then owned by Peter Lampman, comprising some 1200 acres. Hence the name Battle of Lampman Field.)

Frothingham in his History of Montgomery county, page 308 follows Simms in giving Peggy to her own father Lt. John Bellinger and Stone in having Philip Helmer kill the wounded Indian. Simms' Frontiersmen of N. Y., Vol. II page 382 mentions the incident and pages 517-522

devotes five pages in which he draws on his imagination for the sentiment involved and the thoughts evolved, among the participants and for the actual facts he uses an affidavit of 3 Nov. 1781 by Nicholas Herkimer (not Honnikol) a member of Tory Klock's expedition and for the Mother Creek battle, (Lampman's is not a good location name) on Isaiah Failing's (1879) land, he quotes Gen. Charles Gray of Herkimer. Simms gives Peggy to Lt. John Bellinger, has Andrew Gray shoot the Indian, leaves Philip Helmer out of the fight and lets him propose to Peggy, toward the close of the war and the Mother Creek fight was 1781.

Now comes the affidavit of Peter W. Fox among the Adam Helmer papers saying that while Adam Helmer was living with Peter Fox's father "a company of Tories and Indians came into our border. One of the Tories deserted, came and told us the enemy was near. We all turned out and went. Helmer and five others were chosen to spy them out. Enemy espied us and fired. We were immediately in battle. Helmer shot an Indian, broke his leg but discovered the Indian intended to shoot him. Helmer came to him. The Indian cried for mercy but Helmer perceived the Indian still fixing his gun to shoot. Helmer sprung, caught hold of the gun. Indian would not let go. Helmer took the Indian's tomahawk and made an end of him. Helmer took the gun and tomahawk and we went on. On our return we saw he had been scalped." And there y'are!

Philip Helmer deserted the Tories; Col. Klock and Christian Nellis were credited with his capture; a captured man is a prisoner; prisoners are not taken that soon on an attacking party; Lt. Adam Helmer was at hand, was much more valuable than Philip at all times in Indian warfare; Lt.

Adam made an end of the Indian, not Philip and Philip is forever absolved from Stone's charge of killing an Indian who had surrendered and was begging for quarter!

Query. Did Lt. Adam Helmer scalp that Indian? No written evidence that he did is known to me. Many white men accustomed to Indian life and customs, gained respect among the Indians by the adoption of Indian modes of living and fighting, and indulged at the appropriate time in scalping enemies. The affidavit was made 60 years after the fight, scalping by white men wasn't of style

in the east and was touched on very lightly in the affidavit, probably under the guidance of the pension lawyer. The style of fighting Indians in the west 100 years after the Mother Creek battle is well described in the true stories of Indian warfare among the Blackfoot Indians, printed a few years ago in the Youths' Companion, by James W. Shults, author, one of the descendants of the Sadler Bible Family of Bellingers. Personally I wouldn't feel badly about it even if Lt. Adam did!

L. F. BELLINGER.

ERRATA

Page 5—"John Adam" Helmer should read "Johan Adam" Helmer.

Page 17—"Delia Helmer." The information that "Delia Helmer" married John C. Ehle was obtained from "Simms' Frontiersman." There probably was no person in this family named "Delia Helmer." John C. Ehle married Delia Bellinger, daughter of Johannes Bellinger killed at the Battle of Oriskany.

Page 18—Gertrude Bell, who married John Helmer was the daughter of "Frederick Bell" instead of "Johannes" Bell. (See page 5).

Page 20.—"Margaret A." Helmer should read "Frederick A." Helmer, born April 27, 1807, who married about 1829 Eliza Getman.

Page 23.—"Nellis" Rasbach should

read 'Nellie' Rasbach, who married Fred A. Fuller.

Page 24.—"Nicholas Kessler." See correction at page 127.

Page 73.—"Christian" Helmer should read "Christina" Helmer.

Page 105.—"Lucy Adelia" Helmer should read "Lury Adelia" Helmer.

Page 113.—Philip F. Helmer was born "August 8, 1740" instead of "August 7, 1840."

Page 29.—Albert E. Helmer, born December 18, 1860, son of Philip Helmer and Betsy C. Hoover. It was previously stated that he never married. Information has been received that "Bert Helmer of Evans Mills" married Fannie Peck and had three children. Albert E. and Bert are probably the same person.



INDEX

IN TWO PARTS

PART I. Christian Names of Persons Bearing the Name of Helmer.

PART II. Descendants of Helmers or those connected by marriage bearing other names.

NOTE—Where a name appears more than once on a page the duplication is indicated in parenthesis thus (2).

PART I.

CHRISTIAN NAMES OF HELMERS

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Aaron, 46, 48, 104, 105,
110, 111, 123, 125, 151. | 87, 88, 94, 96, 97 (2),
102, 106, 111, 112 (2),
122, 123, 151, 166 | Carrie, 29, 75 |
| Aaron E., 105, 107 | Anna Adell, 167 | Catharine, 5, 12, 13, 15,
17, 19, 20, 23, 27, 36
(2), 43 (2), 45, 46, 47,
52, 53, 55, 57, 78, 79,
94, 115, 121, 145, 169 |
| Aaron Frederick, 56 | Anna Elizabeth, 46, 52,
61, 146 | Catharine Ann, 58, 61 |
| Abbie, 82 | Anna Eva, 121 | Catherine E., 81, 84 |
| Abial E. (Boyle), 45, 47 | Anna Florence, 80, 85 | Catharine Elizabeth, 45 |
| Abigail Catherine, 97 | Anna Magdalena, 5, 17 | Caty Margaret, 27 |
| Abigail Katherine, 103 | Anna Margaret, 13, 18,
20 (2), 21 (2), 24, 36
(2), 52 | Caty Maria, 103 |
| Abraham, 124 | Anna Maria, 119, 120 | Charity (Gertrude), 43,
44, 45, 144 |
| Ada, 22, 83, 85 | Anne, 17 | Charles, 81, 93, 94 (2),
105, 111, 124, 153, 162 |
| Ada Josephine, 100 | Arbutus Mary, 62 | Charles Clarence, 147 |
| Adam, 13, 19, 20, 24, 25,
27, 28, 37, 45, 52, 87,
104, 113, 120 (2), 122
(2), 151 | Archie Stewart, 108 | Charles D., 79, 82, 127,
147, 160 |
| Adam, Jr., 5 | Arthur, 30 | Charles J., 102 |
| Adam F., 6, 7, 8, 10, 13,
31, 48, 113 | Audrey, 102 | Charles Madison, 98,
102 |
| Adam H., 21 | Augustinus, 45 | Charles Mulford, 147 |
| Adelia, 104, 149, 151 | Axianna, 45 | Charles R., 22 |
| Agnes, 94 | Barbara, 42 | Charles William, 94 |
| Albert, 105, 110 | Barbara E., 20 | Charlotte, Malvina, 144 |
| Albert E., 29 | Barbara Elizabeth, 19 | Chauncey, 38 |
| Albert M., 79, 82, 89, 147 | Benjamin, 27 (2), 43,
45, 46 | Christina, 12, 15, 73,
78, 80, 103 (2) |
| Albert R., 81 | Berton, 105, 154, 167 | Christopher, 37 |
| Alberton D., 83, 85 | Berton, Jr., 167 | Clara, 80, 147 |
| Alexis M., 110 | Berton K., 22 | Clara Harriet, 108 |
| Alice, 111 | Betsy (Elizabeth), 43,
87, 104 | Clarence, 102 |
| Ally May, 58, 61 | Beulah, 95 | Clarence Erwin, 105,
108 |
| Almira, 89 | Bianca Katherine, 38 | Claude Ernest, 166, 167 |
| Amelia Ann, 81, 83 | Bidah, 29 | Clifford, 107 |
| Amenilla (Armanella),
22 | Blanche Phoebe, 102 | Clinton Henry, 58 |
| Amos, 92 | Boyle (Abial E.), 45, 47 | Conrad, 18, 29, 103 |
| Andrew, 28, 29, 105, 108,
110, 111 | Bruce Hathorn, 147 | Conrad, Jr., 19, 20 |
| Anna (see Nancy), 19,
34, 35, 36, 37 (2), 43
(2), 45, 52, 53, 55, 73, | Calvin, 38 | |
| | Caroline, 38, 104, 105,
107 | |

- Conrad H., 103
 Cora, 22
 Cornelia, 78, 79
 Cyanthia, 99
 Cyrus, 146
 Cyrus C., 45
 Daniel, 27, 121, 123
 Daniel J., 28, 29
 Daniel M., 105, 106, 153, 167
 Daniel Steuben, 83, 85
 Daniel Webster, 100
 David, 52, 53, 123, 124
 David Alonzo, 56, 57
 David Henry, 98
 Delia, 26(2), 27, 44, 123
 Devillo N., 102
 Dietrich, 10, 18
 Donald Ward, 108
 Doris, 85
 Dorothy G., 112
 Dorothy Joan, 116
 Dwight, 94
 Earl, 101
 Edgar F., 29
 Edith, 100, 124
 Edna, 85, 95
 Edward, 28, 94, 113
 Edward Emerson, 79, 82
 Edwina (Sabina), 33, 34, 35
 Edwin L., 88
 Effie, 29
 Elaine Clare, 108
 Eli, 56, 58
 Eli Harvey, 58, 61
 Elijah, 93
 Elinor M., 167
 Eliza, 93, 94, 111
 Elizabeth, 2, 3, 5 (2), 12 (2), 15, 18 (2), 23, 26, 27, 29, 34, 35, 36 (2), 37 (2), 38 (2), 40, 42, 43 (2), 44 (2), 45, 52, 53, 55, 57, 73, 74, 82, 87, 88, 92, 96, 97, 98, 111 (3), 116, 121 (5), 122, 144, 145 (2), 151
 Elizabeth Ann, 40
 Elizabeth R., 80
 Ella, 30, 80, 105, 107, 147 (2), 153
 Ella May, 74, 75
 Ellsworth, 102
 Elsie, 29, 105, 153
 Elsie Grace, 108
 Emeline, 103
 Emily, 124
 Emma, 30, 46, 80, 105, 106, 147, 166
 Ernest, 89, 101, 147 (2), 168
 Ernest Herbert, 107
 Ervin, 28
 Erwin Ralph, 108
 Erwin Roy, 85
 Essie May, 101
 Estella V., 100
 Eugene, 147
 Eugenia Helen, 116
 Euphemia, 111
 Eva, 36, 37 (2), 39, 43, 52, 55, 56, 87, 88, 151
 Eva May, 102
 Faith, 147
 Fannie E., 48, 116
 Fanny Lavina, 56, 60
 Florence, 95
 Florence S., 22
 Floyd E., 149, 153
 Frances C., 167
 Frances Evelyn, 108
 Francis, 58
 Frank, 22, 88, 113
 Frank A., 75
 Frank Eugene, 149, 153
 Frank Eugene, Jr., 149
 Franklin Eugene, 102
 Frank Watson, 147
 Fred, 88
 Frederick, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 20, 21, 30 (2), 35, 36, 37, 42, 52, 85, 96, 119, 120
 Frederick A., 5, 10, 18, 19, 21, 115
 Frederick Duncan, 74, 75
 Frederick F., 6, 7, 10, 30, 33, 51, 146
 Frederick F., Jr., 34, 51
 Frederick J., 54, 55
 Frederick Morgan, 98, 101
 Frederick P., 121
 Frederick R., 116
 Gardner, 28
 Garland, 168
 George, 34 (2), 44, 45, 80, 88, 93 (2), 105, 107, 111, 124 (2)
 George, Jr., 111
 George B., 29
 George F., 6, 7, 10, 30, 37, 51, 97, 112, 120
 George F., Jr., 37
 George Henry, 38
 George Irving, 100
 George J., 169
 George Jacob, 94 (2)
 G. M., 48
 George Michael, 98, 100
 George Monroe, 103, 146
 George P., 10, 42, 46, 96, 144
 George R., 29
 George Ulysses, 100
 George W., 61, 75
 Gertrude (Charity), 5 (2), 12, 18, 24, 43, 44, 45, 87, 127, 144, 151, 162
 Gertrude Louisa, 100
 Gilbert, 29, 85
 Gilbert Warden, 78, 81, 163
 Glenn, 89, 169
 Godfrid, 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 15, 73, 109, 116
 Grace, 29, 107, 147
 Grace Abigail, 100
 Grace C., 116
 Grace Elinor, 167
 Grace Ellen, 116
 Grace May, 101
 Guy, 169
 Han Adam, 5, 7, 11, 13, 23, 27, 53
 Han Frederick, 42
 Hans, 13
 Han Thomas, 20, 120
 Hanjost (Hanyost), 11, 18
 Hannah, 19, 120
 Hannibal, 94
 Harmon M., 105, 149, 153
 Harold Hubert, 149
 Harriet, 21
 Harriet M., 45, 145
 Hattie Fanny, 58, 61
 Harry, 80, 147
 Harry C., 101
 Harry W., 75
 Helen, 98
 Helen G., 116
 Henry, 15, 25, 27 (2), 28, 43, 56, 87, 88, 103, 104, 123, 144, 151
 Henry, Jr., 26, 103, 25
 Henry A., 5, 11, 20, 21,
 Henry C., 28, 29
 Henry F., 34, 36
 Henry J., 21
 Henry W., 100
 Herbert, 101, 105, 107
 Herman Knox, 73, 75
 Hettie Matilda, 102
 Highwell Dunlap, 81, 83
 Howard P., 102
 Ida, 57, 60, 83, 85, 107
 Inkerman, 111
 Irene, 168
 Irene Frances, 61
 Irvin, 83
 Irving, 113
 Irwin Roy, 83
 Isaac, 21, 27, 28, 46, 123
 Isabella, 88
 Iva, 89
 Jackson, 123
 Jacob, 20, 26, 27 (2), 28, 29, 38 (2), 45, 110, 111, 119, 121, 123, 124
 Jacob Adam, 38
 Jacob Leonard, 92
 James, 21, 28, 73, 87, 88, 103, 104, 110, 122, 124
 James E., 89
 James Harrison, 105, 151, 165
 James Harry, Jr., 166, 167
 James Henry, 56
 James Lathrop, 79
 James M., 85
 Jane, 28

- Jean, 94
 J. Frank, 88
 Jelany, 73
 Jemima, 73
 Jenetta, 124
 Jennie, 29, 102
 Jennie Shella, 108
 Jenny, 122, 123
 Jeremiah, 36, 38, 40, 44, 46, 126, 146
 Jessie, 89, 100
 John (Johannes), 5 (2), 11, 13, 16, 18, 23, 25, 26, 28, 44, 45, 55, 87 (2), 88 (3), 92, 93, 94, 103 (2), 104, 109, 110 (2), 111 (4), 120 (2), 122 (3), 123 (2), 144, 149, 151 (2), 153, 165
 John, Jr., 11, 110
 Johan (John) Adam, 2, 3, 5, 19, 27
 John B., 89
 John Coville, 116
 John D., 73, 74
 John F., 8, 11, 34, 35, 51, 53
 John Frederick, 120
 John G., 7, 8, 11, 15, 71
 John George, 108
 John H., 168
 John Henry, 104, 105
 John Horatio, 116, 160
 John I., 73
 John J., 81, 84
 John P., 8, 11, 24, 86, 104, 105, 150
 John Philo, 58, 61
 John R., 21, 115
 Joseph (Jost), 11, 15, 28 (2), 38, 46, 78, 88, 89, 93, 105, 107, 110, 111, 113, 145, 146, 163
 Joseph Christopher, 44
 Joseph William, 79, 80, 147
 Josiah, 56, 58
 Josiah Hammond, 79, 80
 Joshua, 80, 111
 Joshua Stark, 79, 146
 Julia, 93, 104, 105, 124, 151
 Julia A., 19
 Kate, 46, 88
 L. (initials only), 124
 Laura B., 102
 Laurence, 20, 21
 Lavina, 55, 57
 Lee, 89
 Lena (see Magdalena), 85, 87, 149, 151, 153
 Lendert, 2, 3, 4, 9
 Leonard, 5, 12, 13, 14, 18, 25, 27 (2), 28, 73, 92, 93, 122 (2), 123
 Leonard, Jr., 5, 12, 13, 16, 93, 122
 Leroy, 101
 Lester Grant, 100, 102, 125
 Lester L., 101
 Leslie Mead, 100
 Levi, 93
 Lewis, 48, 146
 Lewis Henry, 61
 Lida Hortense, 105, 108
 Lillian, 80, 94, 147
 Lillian Mary, 166
 Lora, 149, 153
 Lorena, 146
 Lorenzo, 111
 Lotta, 89
 Louis S., 101
 Louisa (Lewisa), 27, 124
 Louise, 81, 83, 163
 Lowell Eugene, 107
 Lucinda, 40
 Lucy, 99
 Lucy Ann, 98
 Lury Adelia, 105, 107
 Luther (Ludwig), 97, 98
 Luther Bradish, 98, 101
 Luther R., 101
 Lyle, 62
 Lyna Mae, 62
 Mabel Esther, 101
 Mabel Irene, 166
 Magdalena (see Lena), 17, 27, 78, 80, 92, 123
 Margaret (Maggie), 5, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 29, 36, 37, 38, 39 (2), 40, 41, 43, 47, 52, 55, 56 (2), 78, 79, 81, 84, 87, 93, 96, 97 (2), 99, 103, 111 (2), 113, 123, 124, 144, 146 (2), 151
 Margaret Catharine, 56
 Maria (see Mary), 17, 24, 27, 36, 43 (2), 45, 46, 47, 73, 94, 121, 123, 146
 Maria Barbara, 37, 38, 39, 42, 52, 53, 96
 Maria Catherine, 38, 40, 87, 112, 151
 Maria Elizabeth, 26, 27
 Maria Margred, 5, 18
 Marion Elizabeth, 61
 Marvin, 104, 149, 151, 153
 Marvin C., 106, 167
 Marvin Curtis, 167
 Mary (see Maria), 20, 22, 28, 29, 38, 45, 46, 73, 74, 78, 87, 88, 89, 93, 99, 113, 123, 124, 145
 Mary A., 22
 Mary Almira, 98
 Mary Ann, 45, 93, 98, 145 (2)
 Mary Catharine, 21, 37
 Mary Doris, 167
 Mary Elizabeth, 27, 56 (2), 59, 97, 99, 100, 103
 Mary Frances, 75, 79, 82
 Mary Jane, 40 (2), 81, 84, 88, 105, 106, 112
 Mary Lillian, 105, 108, 153
 Matilda, 98, 100, 101
 Matthew (Mathias), 47, 97, 98, 145
 Matthew, Jr., 99
 Maude Louise, 29
 Mazina, 29
 May, 94
 Melaine (Magdalena) 92
 Melchert, 38, 39
 Melinda, 94, 104, 151
 Melross (Mulross), 111
 Merchant, 30
 Michael, 43, 44, 87, 104, 145, 151
 Michael M., 45
 Mina, 93
 Minerva, 29
 Minnie, 102, 147
 Mittie, 83
 Monroe, 39, 103
 Mulford, 79, 81, 147
 Nancy (Anna), 43, 93, 94, 96, 97 (2), 111 (2)
 Nancy A., 97, 99
 Nancy Catharine, 99, 101
 Nancy Margaret, 98, 101, 102, 125
 Naoma F., 102
 Naomi, 111
 Nathaniel, 110
 Nellie, 58, 62, 101
 Nellie C., 102
 Newhall, 82, 147
 Nicholas, 43, 45
 Norman, 28, 113
 Oliver, 75
 Oliver M., 124
 Ora B., 85
 Orville, 146
 Oscar Ward, 100
 Oshea, 73
 Otis Wells, 100
 Pauline, 111
 Pearl Angeline, 101
 Percy, 167
 Persis, 105, 163
 Peter, 19, 27, 37, 39, 52, 92, 122, 132, 140
 Peter, Jr., 92, 93
 Peter C., 19, 20
 Peter F., 31, 34, 35
 Peter H., 20
 Peter P., 20, 22, 24, 42, 43, 96, 97, 144, 146
 Peter William, 43, 144
 Philip, 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12 (2), 13, 16, 24, 27, 29, 43, 87, 91, 92 (2), 93 (2), 97, 99, 104, 109, 110, 111 (2), 112, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123 (3), 124, 151
 Philip, Jr., 97, 99

Philip F., 6, 12, 41, 51,
95, 112, 113, 162
Philip G., 44
Philip J., 122, 123
Philip P., 47, 96, 97
Phoebe, 93, 111
Polly (see Mary), 74, 78
Phoebe L., 101

R. A., 110
R. S., 93
Ralph, 82, 169
Ralph Lincoln, 105
Redia Adelia, 108
Reuben, 93
Rhoda, 36
Rhoda Nancy, 58, 61
Richard, 19, 110
Robert, 27 (2), 28
Robert J., 28, 29
Roby, 45
Rodney, 94 (2)
Ross D., 21
Ruby, 102
Rudolph, 88, 89, 123
Ruth, 82
Sabina (Edwina), 10,
33, 34, 35

Sally (see Sarah), 73,
124
Samuel, 93, 111
Sanford, 44, 46, 126
Sara, 47
Sarah (see Sally), 88,
105, 106, 153
Sara Louise, 21
Selden, 124
Severinus (Sylvanus)
43, 144
Sidney, 92, 93, 94 (2)
Simon, 46, 47, 146
Smith, 22
Sophia, 56, 58
Steuben, 75, 78, 81, 84,
146, 147
Stephen H., 75
Susanna, 43, 47
Sylvanus (Severinus),
43, 144

Tenus (Augustinus), 45
Theodocia, 94
Thomas, 110
Timothy, 43, 46 (2), 120,
125, 145, 146
Timothy, Jr., 146

Violet Clare, 166
Virginia, 105, 153, 167
Walter, 59, 62
Warren David, 58, 62
Washington, 124
Wayne Herbert, 108
Wellington, 168
Wesley, 93, 94
Willard, 146
William, 20, 22, 27, 56,
57, 60, 89, 92, 93, 103
(2), 104, 111 (3), 151
William, Jr., 93
William B., 110
William C., 75
William D., 22
William F., 22, 34, 35,
55
William H., 89
William Henry, 36, 44,
87, 88, 144
William J., 55, 56
William Jacob, 56, 57
William King, 147
William Nelson, 98, 102
William R., 81
Zebulon, 73, 74
Ziney, 94

PART II.

HELMER DESCENDANTS BEARING OTHER SURNAMES

Alexander, Fred, 94
Alford, Mary Frances,
40, 41
Allen, Henry, 105, 107
Ames, Lucy, 21
Otis, 21
Amundson, Jennie, 107
Anderson, Alexander,
104, 149 (2), 151
Arch, 149
Carl, 162
Daniel, 149
Donald, 162
Earle, 149
Emma A., 149
Eugene, 149
Frances Ella, 149
George, 149
Jenetta, 149
Richard, 162
Robert, 162
Antos, Marie, 106
Armstrong
Samuel F., 84
Arnold
Ambrose B., 101
Helen, 101
Job, 123
Oliver, 123
Polly, 101
Thomas Roscoe, 101

Ashley,, 74
Baani (Bany)
Anna, 23
Icabod, 5, 12, 23
Johannes, 23
Joseph, 23
Maria Elizabeth, 23
Maria Margaret, 23
Backer, Cornelia, 120
Bacon, Jay, 22
Baldee, Mary, 57
Nancy, 57
William, 57
Baldridge, George, 162
Banks, Emily Jane, 164
Barber, Hubard, 36
Jonathan, 36
Barse
Anna Margaret, 97
Catherine (Kate),
55, 57
John Frederick, 57
Lavina, 57
Luther (Lodovic),
97
Margaret, 97
Nathanial, 55, 57
Rudolph, 57
Bauder, Elizabeth, 117
Baum, Frederick, 121
Bayliss,, 100

Beck,, 92
Becker, George W., 21
Beckstead, Caroline, 94
Beeching, Ethel Ruth,
61
Beersch, Maria, 5, 11,
23
Bell, Gertrude, 5, 18
Johannes, 18
Bellinger, Anna (Nan-
cy), 6, 10, 36, 48,
131
Aurelia, 145
Christopher, 36
David Henry, 112,
113
Dorothy (Wooli-
ven, 130
Frederick P., 112
Gertrude, 127
Henry, 145
Johannes, 17
Jonas, 113
Lyle F., 169
Margaret, 12, 24, 91,
92
Maria, 97, 112
Peter, 6, 48
Peter F., 97, 112
Philip, 112
Benedict, George, 103

- Beal, Samuel, 88
 Benson, Bessie, 102
 Charles, 102
 George, 102
 Best, Nancy, 117
 Bissell, Mary Jane, 60, 61
 Bittinger,, 93
 Blodgett, Mercy Ann, 118
 Bloss, Alva, 119
 Bertha, 119
 George A., 119
 John, 119
 Margaret, 119
 R., 118
 Zoe, 119
 Blue, Daniel M., '29
 Boepple, Lloyd, 61
 Boland, Jerry, 99
 Bonnell, Susan, 147
 Bordeau, John W., 108
 Borden, Emma, 118, 119
 Bowman (Baumann),
 Peter, 7, 12, 15
 Boyle, Daily M., 86
 Fay, 86
 Jesse, 86
 Opal, 86
 Oliver, 86
 Truman, 86
 Brackett, Mary, 111
 Bradley, Charles Benjamin, 107
 Charles L., 107
 Edith May, 107
 Gladys Marion, 107
 Hazel Margaret, 107
 Lester, Darrell, 107
 Mary, 107
 Ruth L., 107
 Broaddus, Andrew, 40
 Brockett, N. S., 94
 Brown,, 89
 Brettie Angeline, 101
 Carlton J., 166
 Carol Jean, 106
 Fred, 166
 Howard, 166
 Leslie Harper, 166
 Louise, 146
 Marshall, 101
 William Fowler, 106, 166
 Buck,, 162
 Rosell, 22
 Buerman, Johannes, 116
 Bullard, Ida, 74
 Percival D., 74
 Burch, James, 62
 Burford, Nancy, 39
 Burlingame, Marcus, 100
 Burnett, Charles Albert, 162
 William Ross, 162
 Bush, Henry, 127
 Butler, G. M., 46
 Cady, Abigail, 122
 Charles, 122, 123
 John, 122
 Lena, 122
 Philip, 122
 Sarah, 122
 Susanna, 122
 Campbell, Josie, 85
 Carlestone, Charles, 22
 Carnes, Clara B., 167
 Case, Constance Mary, 62
 Cash (Cast?), Anna, 121
 Frederick, 121
 Madlene, 47
 Casler (see Kessler)
 Amanzo, 113
 Anna Eva, 121 (2)
 Daniel (or David), 39
 Elizabeth, 29
 George Henry, 112
 Henry, 40, 112
 Libbie, 22
 Margaret Elizabeth, 112, 113
 Maria, 121
 Richard, 121
 Casselman,, 105
 Ethel, 153
 Frank, 153
 Catlin, Addie, 85
 Champion, John, 98
 Chapel, Lizzie, 89
 Chatman,, 23
 Church, Charlotte, 166
 Mabel, 166
 Robert Early, 166
 Clapsattle, Anna, 38
 Augustinus, 38
 John, 38 (2), 39
 Margaret, 38
 Peter, 39, 145
 Clark,, 41
 Jessie, 85
 Claus, Ruby, 117
 Colbourne,, 82
 Cole, Albert H., 78
 Alice J., 102
 Caroline, 78
 Gilbert, 78
 John, 78
 Walter, 78
 Coleman, Lena May, 163
 Oscar B., 163
 Collins (or Colton)
 Harriet, 114
 Harrison, 114
 Walter C., 114
 Colton, Buel P., 40, 41
 Buel Kingsley, 41
 Emily, 41
 James Zearing, 41
 Conant, Harriet, 104, 105
 Conrad, Hannah, 155
 Cook, Casper B., 92
 Casper, Jr., 92
 Elizabeth, 92, 123
 Ira, 92
 Isabella, 88
 Margaret, 92, 117
 Roslyn, 92
 Coon, Emma, 53, 114
 Cotton, Elizabeth May, 164
 Countryman (Conderman, Marks, 96
 Mary, 44, 145
 Crantz, Marcus, 39
 Marcus, Jr., 39
 Crill, Bert, 23
 Edna, 23
 Hazel L., 23
 Ruth Leta, 23
 Cristman, Alzina, 21, 22
 Amelia, 22
 Bertha, 102
 Bertha May, 22
 Byron, 99
 Byron A., 61
 Catharine, 123
 Ella C., 101
 Henry, 28
 Isaac, 146
 Jacob J., 28 (2)
 Lehman, 28, 102
 Lewis, 22
 Louisa, '28
 Malcolm, 100
 Malinda, 22
 Martha, 100
 Mary Esther, 101
 Melinda, 102
 Nancy, 102
 Nancy Catharine, 146
 Nicholas, 28
 Norton, 102
 Norton L., 22
 Pearl Mae, 61
 Seymour, 99
 Varnum, 101
 Walter, 100
 Cronkhite, Margaret, 104, 105, 151
 Cronkrite, Charlotte E., 116
 Cross, Duane, 118
 James, 118
 Crothers, Susan E., 41
 Culbertson, Clarence
 Lamont, 164
 Ella Mary, 164
 Homer Leroy, 164
 John Mullin, 164
 Lillian Loretta, 164
 Neil King, 164
 Cummings, Jane Elizabeth, 108
 Marian Manchester, 108
 Raymond W., 108
 Roy Clark, 108
 Cunningham, Margaret, 34
 Curtis, Frances Sylvia, 62
 Jarvis D., 62

- Curtis, (continued)
 Lillie, 105, 107
 Cuykendall, Seth, 61
 Dalton, Raymond Miner-
 erd, 164
 Raymond Minerd,
 Jr., 164
 Daniels, Carrie, 147
 Davidson, Charles Ed-
 gar, 166
 Davis, Henry, 100
 Davison, Arthur Lester,
 75, 82
 Arthur S., 76
 Frences H., 75, 76,
 82
 Frank Nathan, 75
 James Madison, 74
 Jerome B., 74
 John D., 74, 82
 John Lester, 74, 75,
 82
 Mary Jane, 74
 Nathan Monroe, 74,
 75
 Wilfred P., 75, 82
 Dean, Theresa, 86
 De Haven, Amanda, 145
 Demuth, John, 34
 Denmark, -----, 111
 Derby, Helen M., 149
 Devendorf, Elizabeth,
 113
 Hale, 10
 Dexter, Darius, 39
 Hannah, 123
 Dickey, -----, 147
 Dickinson, Asah, 99
 Eli, 99
 George, 99
 Ida, 99
 Dillenbeck, Margaret,
 117, 118
 Dingman, Byron Jerry,
 61
 Franklin B., 61
 Glen Howard, 61
 Howard, 61
 Jerry, 61
 Myrtle, 61
 Ray H., 61
 Robert Murle, 61
 Dixon, -----, 100
 Dockstader, Adam B.,
 21
 Addie, 21
 Anna E., 61
 Edward, 119
 Gertrude H., 119
 John, 119, 128
 Lillian A., 119
 Donnelly, Harry L., 29
 Donovan, Blanche, 102
 John, 102
 Dougherty, James, 94
 Scott, 94
 Wallace, 94
 Wesley, 94
 Drehmer, John C., 145
 Dunavan, Jennie, 145
 Dunivan, Cynthia Jane,
 162
 Dusler, Anna, 24, 122
 Dye, -----, 100
 Dygert, Catharine, 44,
 47, 145
 Elizabeth, 6, 10, 33,
 44, 54
 Eva, 44, 145
 George, 34, 46, 99,
 145
 George Henry, 44,
 145
 Henry, 43, 45
 Joram, 44
 Margaret, 43, 96,
 144, 146
 Mary, 44, 47, 98,
 145
 Johan Peter, 34, 43
 Norman, 46
 Peter, 34, 44, 45, 47,
 98, 99, 145 (2)
 William, 6, 34, 43,
 44
 William, Jr., 34, 46
 Earnest, Rosanna, 114
 Easterbrook, Roby, 45
 Ecker, -----, 119
 Delina, 61
 Johannes, 61
 Maria Elizabeth, 6,
 34
 Maria Philippina, 5,
 24, 86
 William, 61
 Edick, Conrad, 128, 136
 Fanny E., 57
 Jacob, 57
 Michael, 134
 Edwards, -----, 92
 Ehle, John C. (see Er-
 rata)
 Margaret (Magda-
 lena), 11, 15, 72
 Englehart, -----, 94
 Charles, 22
 Evans, Gilman P., 75
 Jessie O., 75
 Everest, David, 74
 Lemira A., 74
 Everson, Leland, 62
 Eygenbrodt, Peter, 5,
 18 (2)
 E. (initials only) 18
 Eysaman (Eiseman),
 Elizabeth, 45
 Mary Catharine, 21
 Fahrbush, Alik, 29
 Francis, 29
 Falk, Dorothy, 26
 Fanton, Bessie, 85
 Frank, 85
 Farley, Sarah, 28
 Farmer, Grace, 99
 Lucy, 145
 James, 99
 Wolcott, 99
 Farrell, Patrick, 106
 Fassler, John, 29
 Fero, Carles, 62
 Filkins, Berton, 61
 Frank, 61
 John, 61
 Mabel, 61
 Fischer, Esther M., 74
 Fisher, -----, 145
 Fitch, Edward Wright,
 41
 Ellice, 41
 Nathan, 111
 Flagg, Peter, 133
 Flagler, Horace, 147
 Lucy, 146
 Flander, Dennis A., 142
 Flanders, Margaret, 117
 Flint, Alexander, 78
 Robert, 77
 Susanna, 12, 78
 Folts, Adam, 98
 Allen P., 102
 Anna Margaret, 19
 Bellinger, 145
 Burr Carlton, 103
 Clarissa, 98
 Conrad, 19
 Edward C., 102
 Elizabeth, 28, 55
 George Philo, 46,
 145
 Helen Rosabelle,
 100, 101, 102
 Ida, 98
 Jacob, 55
 J. Howard, 101, 102
 John A., 46, 145
 Margaret, 56
 Maria, 97
 Marks, 121
 Mary Ann, 121
 Maude E., 102
 Melcoir, (Melchert)
 19, 96, 97
 Philo, 46
 Sherman Grant,
 101, 102
 William, 101, 102,
 125
 William K., 102
 Forbes, James, 99, 102
 John, 99
 Lidia, 99
 Margaret, 102
 Ford, Angie, 84
 Fordyce, Grace A., 115
 Hugh, 115
 Wesley, 115
 Forsyth, -----, 93
 Fox (Fuchs), -----, 113
 Anna Elizabeth, 34,
 43
 Catharine, 53
 Gertrude, 85
 John, 85
 Peter, 53, 140
 Ralph, 85
 Frank John, 137
 Mary Barbara, 144
 Nancy, 144
 Fuller, Fred A., 23

- Fulmer, Conrad, 55, 56
 Cyrus, 102
 David, 115
 Emma A., 115
 Frank, 102
 Gertrude, 24
 Jacob C., 55
 John, 101
 John Alonzo, 115
 John W., 102
 Margaret, 101
 Mary C., 101, 115
 Milton J., 115
 Nancy (Anna), 55
 Nancy C., 101
 Thomas, 24
 Gallagher, Alex, 93
 Agnes, 162
 Garlock, Susan, 21
 Garten, Blanche, 41
 Madison Boyd, 40
 Melchart, 40, 41
 Gartman, A. G., 39
 Sanford, 39
 George, Sanford, 104, 151
 Getman, Aaron, 117
 Abner, 118
 Adam, 117
 Adelbert, 118
 Alva, 118
 Anna M., 118, 119
 Archibald, 117
 Arvilina, 117
 Barbara (Permilia), 103
 Bartlett B., 103
 Borden, 119
 Byron L., 118, 119
 Casper, 117, 118
 Catharine, 103, 117 (3), 118
 Charles, 118 (2)
 Christopher, 118
 Darius, 117
 Duane, 118
 Eliza, 20
 Eliza A., 118, 119
 Elizabeth, 117 (2), 118
 Emma, 118, 119
 Ervin, 117
 George, 116, 117 (2) 118
 George H., 118
 George T., 117
 Hannah, 117
 Harriet, 103
 Henry H., 118
 Howard, 118
 Irene, 118
 John, 117 (2)
 John Frederick, 116
 Joshua, 117
 Laney A., 117
 Lucinda, 117
 Magdalena, 118
 Maralotte, 118
 Margaret, 93
 Martin, 118 (2)
 Mary, 118
 Mary E., 117
 Minnie R., 118
 Myra, 118
 Myrtle, 119
 Nancy Catherine, 117
 Olive, 118
 Robert, 117, 118
 Ruth, 118
 Samantha, 118, 119
 Sarah M., 118
 Sidney, 118
 Thomas, 12, 116, 117 (3), 118
 Thomas, Jr., 117 (2)
 Volkers, 117
 Volkert L., 118
 William, 118 (2)
 Giles, William H., 115
 Gill, Adele, 105, 151, 165
 Glor, Luella M., 114, 115
 Gordon, Jennie, 94
 Gower, Mary, 67
 Grant, Elizabeth, 103
 Flora Augusta, 58
 Nelson, 58
 Graves, Eugene H., 166
 Helmer Horace, 167
 Irene Junella, 167
 Wilmer, 167
 Greer, Charles 85 (2)
 Hazel, 85
 Harry H., 85
 Jean, 85
 Gremps, James, 17
 Grey, Margaret, 93, 94
 Nancy, 92, 93
 Griggs, Rosanna, 101
 Grim, Angelina, 53
 Anna, 53
 Daniel, 53
 Edwin, 53
 Lewis, 53
 Maria Margaret, 53
 Paul H., 53
 Polly (Mary), 53
 Timothy, 53
 Grimes, Paul, 97
 Grimshaw, Isabelle, 110, 111
 Grinols, Elnora B., 85
 Griswold,, 57
 Gross, James Ellsworth, 40
 Hagen, Nellie, 154, 167
 Haggerty, Lucinda B., 39
 Mary, 40
 William, 39
 Haine (Haynes), Geo., 12, 17 (2)
 Johan, 17
 Hale, Maria Louisa, 100
 Hall, Angeline, 99
 Bertha, 85
 John G., 85
 Julia Craven, 41
 Loren, 99
 William, 163
 Halleck, Asenath, 75
 Hamblin, Frank, 94
 John, 94
 Hammond, Mary, 79, 147
 Hanchett, Asa, 96
 Haner, Jeremiah, 39
 Hardy, Fern, 107
 George, 107
 James, 107
 Joy, 107
 Ruth, 107
 Wayne, 107
 Harris, Benjamin, 57
 Elizabeth, 122, 123
 Gus, 57
 Mary, 57
 Randolph, 57
 Harter, Aaron, 100
 Abigail (Appollonia), 96
 Adam, 96, 98, 100
 Adam J., 27
 Anna (see Nancy), 36
 Anna Margaret, 19
 Catharine, 27, 28, 96, 97
 Elizabeth, 96, 97, 112
 Eva, 96
 Everett J., 61
 Hannah, 100
 Harriet, 146
 Harold N., 61
 Helen, 100
 Henry, 19, 96, 98, 100, 112
 Henry G., 21
 Jacob, 27 (2), 47
 Jacob Jois, 27
 Jacob L., 47 (2), 146
 John, 100
 John J., 47, 146
 Lana, 98
 Laurence F., 47
 Laurence L., 47
 Lawrence (Lawrens), 19, 112
 Lena, 87
 Leonard, 27
 Magdalena, 27
 Margaret, 19, 96
 Maria, 28
 Mary, 98, 100, 146
 Mary Ann, 27
 Mary Elizabeth, 21
 Melissa, 146
 Merton, 102
 Nancy (Anna), 98
 Philip H., 28
 Solomon, Jackson, 27
 Warren L., 61
 William, 98, 100
 Harting, Charles B., 167
 Marvin Curtis, 167
 Ruth Elinor, 167

- Harting, (continued)
 Sherman Bruce, 167
 Hartman, Christopher, 37
 Robert G., 85
 Hartwell, Clara, 41
 Richard M., 41
 Harwick, Susanna, 61
 Hauser, Jacob, 86, 90
 Hausman, Harvey S., 164
 Raymond H., 164
 Headcock (Hatcock), John, 5, 18
 Heaton, Bettie, 41
 Clara, 41 (2)
 Herman Howard, 41
 Hiram Weaver, 41
 Herder (see Harter)
 Hess, Catharine, 36, 47
 Elizabeth, 42, 47
 Frederick, 36
 Hill, Cordelia, 104, 149, 151
 John, 53
 Luther Manly, 152
 Hillegas, Jennie, 113
 Hiller, Margaret, 113
 Hilts, Adam, 56
 Anna, 46
 Catharine, 19, 20
 Diana, 98, 100
 Dorothy, 21
 Elizabeth, 22, 28, 56, 113, 121, 123, 146
 George I., 100
 Lavina, 56
 Margaret, 56
 Mason, 56
 Melissa, 56, 60
 Nicholas, 56
 Permilie, 56
 Hinman, Sylvester, 41
 Hiser, -----, 56
 Hollister, Angelina, 94
 Barney, 94
 Hollowell, John, 100
 Holmes, Leroy Wilbur, 61
 Homan, Barbara Elizabeth, 5, 10, 18, 115
 Hood, Gail, 94
 Hooper, Arie L., 163
 Hoover Betsy C., 29
 Pater, 29
 Horton, Homer F., 118
 Houghton, Walter, 162
 Howard, Andrew J., 40, 41
 Anna, 40
 Elizabeth L., 41
 Huldah, 40, 41
 Jonas, 39
 Jonas George, 39, 40
 Thomas J., 40
 Howe, Aaron, 145, 162
 Adelaide, 145, 162
 Amy, 145
 Amy Louise, 162
 Amy Read, 163
 Anna Peirce, 163
 Bernard, 163
 Byron, 145, 162
 Charles, 162
 Claire, 162
 Ella, 162
 George Burch, 162
 Ira Burch, 144, 145, 162
 Ira Burch II, 163
 Ira Burch III, 163
 Ira Clark, 145, 162
 Irene, 162
 Isabelle, 162
 Joseph, 145
 Mabel, 162
 Mary Louise, 163
 Nellie Peirce, 162
 Walter Clark, 162
 William Peirce, 162
 Hoyer, -----, 97
 Peter, 119, 120, 134
 Humeston, Clarence, 118
 Lyle, 118
 Hunt, Emma A., 84
 Hurd, C., 93
 Hutton, N. M., 123
 Susan, 123
 Huyck, Hiram, 146
 Huyck (Hauck), Geo. 47
 Gerrit, 47
 Hyatt, Edith Elizabeth, 163
 Emily Maud, 164
 Hyser, Henry, 37
 Jacob, 37
 Ingraham, Benjamin, 36
 John, 36
 Ingram, William T., 40
 Ittig (see Edick)
 Jackson, Pearl, 62
 William S., 80, 147
 Jacobs, Bert, 83
 Clayton, 83
 Emma, 80, 82
 Evaline, 80
 Fred, 83
 James Henry, 80
 Joseph William, 80, 83
 Marcus M., 80, 83
 Mary Frances, 80
 Sarah, 80
 Steuben H., 80
 William, 80
 Jardine, W. J., 93
 Jeffers, Mary Jane, 20, 22
 Jennings, Sophia, 20, 21
 Johnson, Oscar Albert, 164
 Emily Josephine, 164
 Jones, -----, 149
 James A., 75
 John T., 29
 Nellie, 75
 Roy, 75
 Sophia, 27
 Jordan, Almida, 79
 Alonzo H., 79
 Dewitt, 79
 Frank, 79
 Ida, 79
 James, 79
 Joel, 79
 John, 79
 Julia, 83
 Margaret, 80, 82
 Martha, 80
 Mary, 80
 Orlando, 79
 Roxaline, 79
 Joslin, Hiram, 37
 Ida, 89
 Nettie A., 29
 Silvester, 37
 Kast, Catharine, 46, 146
 Conrad, 99
 George, 46, 98, 99
 Johan George, 6, 30, 120
 Lydia, 22
 Maria Barbara, 6, 30, 119, 120
 Maude, 101
 Matilda, 98
 Phoebe, 98
 Kellar, Betsy Maria, 75
 Kellogg, Casper Jack, 149
 Hiram, 118
 Mercy Ann, 119
 Kennedy, Cecil, 86
 James E., 86
 Lloyd, 86
 Paul, 86
 Raymond, 86
 Kessler (see Casler)
 Adam, 24, 127
 Anna, 24, 127
 Catharine, 24, 127 (2)
 Daniel, 127
 Elizabeth, 127
 Hannah, 127
 Jacob, 127 (2)
 John, 5, 12, 24 (2)
 127 (2)
 Leonah, 127
 Nicholas, 127 (2)
 Philip, 127
 Sally, 127
 Kilts, Lisander, 117
 King, Almira, 81, 147
 Kinney, Alanson, 85
 Arthur, 82
 Carrie E., 82
 Eva F., 82
 Florence, 82
 Ida May, 82
 Jack, 85
 Lois, 85
 Orra, 80, 82
 Therlow, 85
 Klock, Amanda E., 40

- Klock, (continued)
 Anna, 39
 Barbara (Barvalis), 5, 16
 Caroline, 39
 Elizabeth, 38
 Hendrick, 5, 16
 Henry, 38, 39
 Henry J., 39
 Jacob, 5, 16
 John, 39
 Lucinda, 39
 Margaret, 39
 Mary Ann, 39
 Robert, 39, 40
 Sanford, 39
 Knope, John, 102
 John, Jr., 102
 Rose, 102
 Koenig, Arthur Gustave, 83
 Kraus, George, 121
 Jacob, 121
 Jacob, Jr., 121
 Krouss, Debora, 18
 Jacob, Jr., 5, 18
 Maria Elizabeth, 18
 Lambert, George, 17
 Lamhofer, Augustus, 83
 Landon, Eunice, 89
 Larkin, Andrew J., 89
 Lasher, Bertha, 23
 Lathrop, Elizabeth, 103
 Laughlin, Anna Belle, 165
 Leitermann, Leonard, 107
 Lucille, 107
 Margaret, 107
 Leslie, Mary, 111
 Lesson, Edith, 86
 Lewman, John H., 41
 Liddle, Ross Arthur, 166
 Lies, Lena, 123
 Marcus, 123
 Livermore, Vaughn, 166
 Livingston, Clara, 89
 Livingstone, Malcomb, 28
 Mary (Maria), 20, 22, 28
 Lont, 94
 Loucks, 93
 Lowrie, 89
 Ludlow, Dollie, 88
 Stephen, 88
 Lyman, Chloe, 85
 Lyon, Charlotte, 114
 Mahardy, John David, 23
 Mann, A., Jr., 138
 Manning, Edward, 58, 62
 Estella M., 58, 62
 Martha E., 58, 62
 Markell, Jacob, 135
 Marshall, Clara, 84
 Martin, Sarah, 106
 Matthews, -----, 94
 Maxey, Philip, 144
 McCaffrey, Catherine, 103
 McCombs, Madlene, 47
 McDonnell, Jane, 106
 McDowell, Grace M., 108
 McIntosh, James, 47
 McIntyre, -----, 92
 James, 164
 McMahan, -----, 118
 McMillan, Anna, 100
 Meeker, Charles, 60
 Flora, 60
 George, 60
 Job, 60
 Polly, 60
 Mellon, Harriet M., 23
 Merkley, Ettie, 94
 George, 94
 Merrill, William P., 80, 147
 Millard, John, 145
 Miller, Abbie, 81
 David, 29
 Elton, 29
 Frederick, 123
 Frederick F., 123
 George, 165
 John C., 39
 Lloyd M., 165
 Merton, 29
 Metta, 29
 William D., 29
 Milliner, Adah, 104, 151
 Mills, Hannah, 100
 Miner, Archie, 80
 Clinton, 80
 Minor, -----, 149
 Mix, Nora A., 76
 Moak, Kate, 75
 Mock, Josiah, 48, 146
 Mooers, James, 53
 Moore, Allen Hyatt, 164
 Corrinne Anna, 164
 Donald James, 164
 Doria Leah, 164
 Dorothy Emily, 164
 Elsie Louisa, 163, 164
 Ethel Maud, 164
 Evelyn Verna, 164
 Febian David, 164
 Gayle Francis, 164
 Guy Leonard, 163, 164
 Helen Genevieve, 164
 Howard John, 164
 John J., 163
 Kenneth Ray, 164
 Leo King, 163
 Lizzie Iola, 163, 164
 Lucy Margaret, 164
 Martha Roe, 164
 Mary Margaret, 164
 Max Burton, 164
 Ozro Burton, 163, 164
 Ralph Edgar, 164
 Ruth Emily, 164
 Theodore Ray, 163, 164
 Worden Leroy, 163
 Morey, C. E., 94
 Clara (Edwards), 21, 116
 Cora, 102
 Fred, 102
 Morgan, James, 118
 Morris, Walter, 83
 Morrison, Catherine Mary, 164
 Morse, Almira, 99
 Augustus, 99
 George, 99
 John A., 99
 Mosier, Aurelia, 145
 Helen, 44
 Stephen, 44, 145
 Moyer, Helen Delia, 117
 Lulu, 61
 Mulford, Frances (Fannie), 75, 79, 147
 Mulross, Anna, 110
 Munn, Philora C., 58
 Munterbach, Johannes, 35, 54
 Margaret, 11, 35, 54
 Murphy, Henry, 139
 Myers (Mayer), Anna, 6, 12, 42, 95
 Catherine, 4 9
 Elizabeth, 35, 43, 144
 Eva, 36
 Frederick, 35, 36
 Henry J., 97, 112
 John, 97, 112
 John H., 97, 112
 Margaret, 5, 6, 10, 25, 37
 Mary Jane, 36
 Mary K., 23
 Michael, 95
 Nancy (see Anna)
 Peter H., 36
 Philip, 97 (2)
 William, 43
 Nellis, -----, 92
 Catherina, 5, 13, 16
 Christina, 5, 16
 Henry, 12, 15
 Nelson, Clinton R., 115
 Newhall, Daniel, 147
 Minnie, 127
 Newman, -----, 88
 Newth, North J., 22
 Nichols, Frank, 84
 Fred, 84
 Minnie, 84
 Robert, 84
 Noble, Allen George, 63
 Anna Dell, 60, 62
 Chauncey, 60
 Chauncey H., 60, 62
 George P., 59
 Georgia P., 60

Noble, (continued)

Mina E., 60
 Reuben, 60
 North, Hazel, 109
 Northup, Julia, 83
 May, 83
 Ocoback, Nellie, 99
 O'Donnell, Mary, 106
 Olds, Horace, 114
 Oliver, Jessie Ada, 62
 Olney, Darwin, 105, 107
 Minnie, 107
 Orendorf, Mildred, 113
 Osborn, Helen H., 21, 116
 Osgood, Mary, 96, 97
 Relief, 97
 Ostler, -----, 30
 Ottman, Marguerite, 115
 Palmatier, Alexander S., 162
 Palmer, Lucretia, 36
 Mary, 21
 Parish, Lucinda, 111
 Parker, Alta Evelyn, 61
 Parks, Esther, 88
 Samuel C., 82, 147
 Passage, Adam, 113
 Albert J., 53, 115
 Anna, 52
 Don L., 114, 115
 Don L., Jr., 115
 Doris Luella, 115
 Edith, 114
 Eva, 52, 113
 Flinn L., 114
 Frederick Glor, 115
 George, 52, 113
 George Earnest, 114
 Harriet Mary, 115
 Henry, 52 (2), 113
 Jennie Bell, 115
 John, 113
 Joseph, 52
 Lany, 113
 Lewis L., 114
 Margaret, 114
 Maria, 52
 May E., 114
 Neal, 114
 Niel Glor, 115
 Peter, 52, 53, 113, 114
 Peter Ward, 115
 Ray Herbert, 114
 Robert, 115
 Rollins, 115
 Rosanna, 114
 Ruth J., 114
 Walter, 114
 Ward, 53, 114
 Patterson, -----, 162
 Clarence, 101
 Edna, 101
 Ethel, 101
 Gertrude, 101
 Grace, 101
 Merton, 101
 Nellie, 101

Robert, 101
 Robert E., 101
 Ruth, 101
 Payne, Angeline, 60
 Peck, Charles L., 115
 Peckham, Frank, 82
 Peirce, Forest Eugene, 162
 George W., 162
 Louisa, 162
 Pendleton, Della, 82
 Perkins, -----, 100
 Peterson, Agnes, 110, 111
 James, 62
 Petrie (Petry), Abram, 96
 Dorothy, 45
 John, 23
 Nettie, 23
 Richard, 45
 Willis J., 23
 Phelps, Lewis P., 146
 Phenes, Barney, 79
 Fred, 79
 Harriet, 79
 Martin, 79
 Orlando R., 79
 Philip, 79
 Philips, -----, 28
 Catharine, 28
 William, 104, 151
 Pickersgill, -----, 111
 Pier, Anna Sophia, 12, 17
 Florence, 40
 George Philip, 17
 John Ernest, 12, 17
 Philip, 5, 17
 Pierce, Kittie, 105, 107
 Lizzie, 145
 Piper, Andrew, 129, 136
 Catharine, 19
 Jacob, 28
 Margaret, 47
 Peter, 96
 Plank, Huldah, 149
 Potter, Alvah, 102
 Powers, Helen, 79
 Prescott, Katie, 89
 Printz, Plumer Moorhead, 164
 Sara Patricia, 164
 Prym, Grace, 114
 Purdy, -----, 74
 Putnam, Elizabeth, 58
 Quinn, J., 93
 Radle, A. J., 45
 Ranney, Anna Eliza, 80
 Rasbach, Adam, 23, 28
 Almeron Joshua, 22
 Anna, 19, 20
 Anna Margaret, 21
 Bernard A., 22
 Bert J., 23
 B. Floyd, 23
 Clarinda, 22, 28
 Earl B., 22
 Edgar, 22
 Edith, 22

Elizabeth, 22, 28
 Ellen, 22, 28
 Essie May, 22
 Etta, 22
 Eva, 23
 Fanny (Veronica), 20, 21
 Franklin, 22
 George Henry, 21
 Harriett, 22, 28
 Hazel A., 23
 Johannes, 55
 John, 22, 55
 John Alonzo, 22, 28
 John I., 21, 22, 28
 Irving P., 23
 Leon, 22
 Leona, 22
 Louis J., 22
 Mabel, 22
 Mamie, 23
 Marcus, 19, 21, 23, (2), 28
 Marcus, Jr., 21
 Margaret, 22, 28, 102
 Maria Catharine, 55
 Marx, 55
 Minnie, 22
 Nellie, 23 (2)
 Nettie Grace, 23
 Norman, 22, 28
 Norton J., 22
 Peter, 21
 Raymond, 22, 23
 Vera, 23
 Veronica (Fanny), 20, 21
 Webster, 22
 Willim C., 21
 William F., 23
 Winnie, 23
 Rathben, -----, 119
 Recknall, Emma, 29
 Frederick, 29
 Reddish, Sanford, 79
 Reed, Elizabeth, 117, 118
 Emmory, 60
 Emmory, Jr., 60
 Satie, 62
 Reid, Ome, 115
 Remps, Guy, 93
 Reury (or Ranney), Charlotte, 80
 Henry, 80
 Jacob, 80
 James, 80
 Jane, 80
 Joseph, 80
 Julia, 80
 Reynolds, Charles Albert, 106
 Edward Daniel, 106, 153
 Edward H., 106, 153
 Ernest Helmer, 106, 153
 Harry Clarence,

- Reynolds, (continued)
 106, 153
 Herbert Edward, 106
 Jesse Martin, 106
 Laurence Frederick, 106
 Marie Frances, 106
 Nancy Louise, 106
 Nettie May, 106, 153
 Sarah Irene, 106
- Rice, -----, 162
 John C., 163
 Maria, 81
 Mary A., 163
- Richardson, Eliza, 29
- Riegel (or Ruhl), Anna
 Margaret, 23
 Catharine, 23
 Christian, 5, 23, 24
 Elizabeth, 4
 Frederick, 5, 13, 23, (2), 24
 Gottfreid (Godfrid), 5, 23 (2), 24 (2)
 Maria Elizabeth, 24
- Riggles, Rose, 163
- Robbins, Monroe B., 21
- Roberts, Addison, 46
- Robertson, Blanche, 94
 Eva, 94
 Pembroke, 94
- Robson, John, 94
 Laura, 94
 Lottie, 94
 Walton, 94
- Roby, Mary Henrietta, 80
- Rogers, Clayton, 118
 Sarah Elizabeth, 80
- Rombough, -----, 92
- Root, Clarence B., 22
- Rosecrants, Abraham G., 135
 George, 132
- Rowe, John, 102
 John C., 163
 Mary A., 163
- Roys, Max, 85 (2)
- Russell, Irene B., 149
- Ryan, Josephine, 164
- Ryder, Emma, 118
- Ryther, Helen, 75
- Saltsman, Burdette, 119
 Carlton, 119
 Donald, 119
 Douglas, 119
 George, 119
 Gladys, 119
 Herbert, 119
 Iantha, 119
 Jeremiah, 119
 Myron, 118, 119
- Sansing, Alvin, 167
 Mabel Emily, 167
- Sargent, Alfred, 162
 Louise, 106
 William, 162
- Saunders, Charles, 101
- Leon, 101
 Ruth, 101
- Sawyer, Helen J., 84
 Lettie E., 84
 Ralph H., 84
 Walter H., 84
- Schell, Barbara, 45
 Catharine, 19, 20
 Christian, 46
 Elizabeth, 46, 117
 John, 57
 John, Jr., 46
 Margaret Lucinda, 57
 Mark, 57
 Mary, 115
 Nancy Maria, 21, 23
 Peter, 19, 20
- Schram, Edna, 109, 155
- Schuenke, Lillian, 116
- Schultz, Christopher, 117
- Schumacher (see Shoemaker)
 Christopher, 44
 Delia, 116
 Eva, 20, 120
 John, 116
 Magdalena, 44
- Schutt, Isaac, 121
- Schuyler, Louise, 80
- Schwartz, Harry, 61
- Scott, Harold L., 153, 167
 Helen M., 153, 167
 Lewis A., 153, 167
 Mabel, 85
 Milton R., 153, 167
- Scouten, Anna, 17
 David, 17
 George, 17
 Simon, 17
- Scriven, Edward O., 116
- Secord, -----, 94
- Seiter, Anna, 60
 George, 60 (2)
 John, 60
 Rose, 60
- Service, Catharine, 122
- Shannon, George, 146
- Shapleigh, Alexander, 76
 Frances, 76
 Lester Bartlett, 76
 William C., 76
 William C., Jr., 76
- Shaw, Ann, 104, 149, 151, 165
- Shepperman, Christian, 17
- Shoemaker (see Schumacher)
 Gertrude, 39
 Joseph, 39
- Short, Daisy May, 165
- Shurtz, Floyd, 85
- Sime, May, 94
- Sisson, Muriel Adele, 162
 Vinton Earl, 145,
- 162
- Sitts, Maria, 127
 Nancy, 127
- Smidt, Alice, 105, 151, 165
- Smith, Adam, 26, 27, 28, 56, 146
 Adam, Jr., 22
 Adam J., 28, 113
 Alexander, 93
 Ann, 26
 Anna, 98, 99
 Anna Margaret, 22
 Annie M., 93
 Benjamin, 28, 29
 Caswell, 93
 Catharine, 26, 28
 Clarinda, 28
 Clarissa, 93
 Cornelia Fitzpatrick, 105, 151, 165
 Dorothy Paul, 116
 Elizabeth, 45, 56, 93
 Emma, 114
 Frank B., 28
 George, 45, 47
 Grace, 23
 Henry, 26, 92
 Jacob, 26, 28
 Jacob, Jr., 20, 22, 26, 28
 Jane, 152
 John Peter, 22
 Joseph, 26, 28
 Lea, 26, 28
 Lucinda, 28, 113, 146
 Madlene, 37
 Malinda, 21, 22, 28
 Margaret, 26
 Maria, 26
 Mary Ann, 20, 22
 Mary Elizabeth, 22
 Nancy, 98
 Nelson William, 83
 Nicholas, 45
 Nicholas, Jr., 45
 Norman, 28
 Peter, 20, 22
 Peter P., 20, 22
 Rebecca, 28 (3)
 Robert J., 146
 William, 92
 William Urias, 22
 Winifred, 83
- Snell, Catherine, 40
 Clarence, 94
 Elizabeth, 145
- Snow, Charles L., 85 (2)
 Elizabeth Ann, 85
 Helmer, 85
- Snyder, Betty Arline, 119
 Fred E., 119
 Richard Earl, 119
- Southworth, Floyd, 80
 Wallace, 80
- Sparks, Elizabeth, 121

- Speefen, Sally (Sarah), 26
 Joab, 26
 Spofford, Emeline, 93
 Spohn (Spoon), Henry, 113, 114
 Jeremiah, 57
 Nicholas, 113
 Philip, 57, 58
 Simon, 113
 Springer, Alexander E., 107, 109
 Delia Hazel, 109
 Eleanor, 104, 105, 151
 Ernest O., 107
 Mavis Lucille, 109
 Rosa L., 107
 Serelle Maurice, 107, 109
 Stair, -----, 104
 Stall (Stahl), Anthony, 121
 Catharine, 121
 John, 121
 Margaret, 121
 Peter, 121
 Philip, 121
 Stanhope (or Sternberg), Elizabeth, 103
 Stannard, Edward, 40
 Staring, Adam, 35 (2), 36
 Anna, 35
 Catharine, 11, 42, 96, 144
 Edwina, 35, 36
 Elizabeth, 35, 36
 George Frederick, 35, 36
 Henry, 42
 Margaret, 35
 Mary Anna, 35
 Mattie E., 106, 153, 167
 Peter, 35
 Stark, Abigail, 79, 146
 Starkweather, Marinda, 21
 Stearns, Sarah E., 47, 146
 Steel, Anna, 36
 Dorothy, 20, 22
 Steele, -----, 56
 Steinburg, -----, 149
 Steinhelber, Peter, 29
 Steinour, Mary R., 164
 Stephens, William
 Ware, 41
 Steranka, Marian, 76
 Sternberg (or Stanhope), Elizabeth, 103
 Stevens, George, 45
 George, Jr., 45
 Sally, 36
 Stewart, Augusta May, 108
- Storey, C. DeForest, 167
 Charles D., 167
 Stratton, Alfred A., 75
 Arthur, 75
 Burton, 75
 Paul, 75
 Sullivan, Alice, 94
 Suts, Richard, 117
 Swartout, John P., 40
 Swope, Elsy, 120
 John Frederick, 120
 Symonds, Anna, 146
 Taylor, Mary, 114
 Thompson, Helen, 74
 John, 98
 Thorn, Bess, 85
 Thum, 92
 Agnes, 43
 Anna, 97
 Elizabeth, 37
 John Nicholas, 96, 97
 Melchoir, 38, 97
 Tillotson, Helen Gene, 116
 John Frederick, 116
 Knut, 116
 Toban, Susan, 111
 Tousick, Catherine, 127
 Trowbridge, Emma, 145, 162
 Tyler, Daniel, 100
 Mary, 98, 100
 Van Allen, Harry J., 62
 Mary Oliver, 62
 Van Alstyne, Bennie, 100
 Charlotte, 100
 Frank, 100
 Van Derwalker, Esther, 29
 Van Dresar, Caroline
 May, 149, 153
 Milton, 153
 Ula, 153
 Van Dusen, William T., 119
 Van Slyke, Ellen, 57
 Emanuel, 57
 John, 57
 Vary, Harvey Judson, 29
 Vedder, Nicholas, 98
 Vincent, Althea, 118
 Susie E., 163
 Vining, -----, 82
 Vrooman, Alida, 118
 Vunk, Ada M., 62
 Albert B., 62
 Anthony E., 62
 Wafle, John Henry, 141
 Wahn, Ella, 164
 Waite, Abigail, 99
 Crandall, 99
 Earl, 99
 Ira, 99
 Jennie, 99
 Matilda, 99
 Walker, -----, 106
- Edward C., 164
 Elsie M., 164
 Herbert J., 166
 Glenn Hartwood, 166
 Margaret Frances, 166
 Walradt, Abraham, 73
 Adolph, 12, 15
 Ambrose, 73, 74
 Anna Maria, 73
 David A., 73
 Elizabeth, 73 (2)
 George, 73
 Godfrey, 73
 Harmon, 73
 Lany Catharine, 73, 74
 Margaret, 73, 81, 163
 William, 73
 Walrod, -----, 80
 Walruth, Mary, 84
 Ward, Aaron, 114
 Abraham, 114
 Harriet, 53, 114
 Louisa, 99
 Warner, Raymond, 23
 Warren, -----, 30
 Wasserman, Florence, 163
 Watson, Almy, 146
 Effie M., 84
 Olin, 84
 Osro R., 84
 Rufus, 84
 Webber, Anna Margaret, 19
 Catharine, 46
 Jacob G., 19
 Weber, Catharine, 47, 112
 Welsh, Samuel, 23
 Wendell, Elizabeth, 114
 Wheeler, Bertha Elizabeth, 108
 Douglas W., 108
 Frederick Belding, 108
 Jane Rosalie, 109
 White, Jennie, 75
 Whooley, Mae M., 167
 Wilbur, Aaron, 155
 Bertha May, 107, 108, 150, 153
 Bessie Amelia, 107, 108, 153
 Byron, 106, 153
 Eunice, 109
 Gideon, 155
 Gordon Frank, 107, 153
 Helen Frances, 109
 Marvin W., 107, 109, 153
 Wilder, Josephine May, 84, 86
 Mary M., 84, 86
 Oliver G., 84
 Oliver H., 86

- Wilder (continued)
 Sherman, 84
 Theron W., 86
 Worden Steuben,
 84, 86
 Wildey, Charles, 144
 Williams, Adelaide, 162
 Amy, 162
 Anne A., 62
 Auguer, 21
 Charles, 21
 Dorothy L., 62
 Fannie, 21
 Frank A., 21
 Frank B., 162
 Fred, 21
 Harry, 21
 Jennie, 21
 John G., 62
 Leon, 162
 Leonar, 162
 Marjorie F., 62
 May, 21
 Noble S., 62
 Pascoe W., 62
 Wills, Bryce, 107
 Lillie, 107
 Wilson, Irma, 109
 Winch, Laura, 118
 Wininger, -----, 88
 Witmuch, Adriane, 120
 Wolff, Maria, 24, 86,
 104, 150
 Michael, 24, 87
 Wollaber (Welleven),
 Jacob, 115
 Mary E., 115
 Nicholas, 115
 Peter, 115
 Woodworth, Grace E.,
 165
 Worden, Frances M.,
 61
 Fred D., 61
 Jabez, 88
 Laura, 88
 Mabel E., 61
 Worthley, Julia, 41
 Wright, -----, 88, 145
 Yerdon, Archie Lloyd,
 164, 165
 Christine Louise,
 165
 Dorothy May, 165
 Edith Elizabeth,
 164
 Florence B., 163
 Gerald Gilbert, 165
 Gilbert Joseph, 163
 Glenn W., 165
 Gloria Jean, 165
 Harold John, 164
 Hazel A., 165
 Helene Philene, 163
 Herbert B., 163
 James Floyd, 164
 John Levi, 163
 Jonas Adam, 163
 Julia Amelia, 163
 Lucille Mary, 165
 Mary Elizabeth, 165
 Mary Margaret, 163
 Peter, 163
 Ralph Peter, 163,
 164
 Roy Clarence, 163,
 164
 Virginia Ann, 165
 Willis L., 163, 165
 Young, Almira, 57
 Clark, 118, 119
 Lina, 119
 Lucy, 119
 Youngs, Beulah, 154
 Ernest, 154
 Frank, 153
 Frederick, 154
 Hava, 154
 William, 153
 Zearing, Charlotte Lu-
 cinda, 40, 41
 James, 40
 James R., 40
 Lizzie Ruth, 40
 Luella Margaretta,
 40
 Zimmerman, Cathar-
 ine, 5, 12, 16, 122
 Charles, 108
 Eleanor Agnes, 108
 Ellis, 61
 Frances, 108
 Harriet Ann, 108
 Irene Susan, 108
 John Charles, 108
 Lillian May, 108

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS MENTIONED

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Demuth, John | Frank, John | Murphy, Henry |
| Demuth, Marks | Folts, Conrad | Piper, Andrew |
| Dockstader, John | Folts, Hanyost | Rasbach, Johannes |
| Edick (Ittig), Conrad | Folts, Melchert | Rasbach, John |
| Edick (Ittig), George | Fox, Peter | Rasbach, Marx |
| Edick (Ittig), Michael | Fulmer, Conrad | Staring, Henry |
| Flagg, Peter | Harter (Herder), Hen-
ry | Thum (Domb), Mel-
choir |
| Flanders, Dennis A. | Hilts, Nicholas | |
| Flint, Robert | Munterback, John | Wafle, John Henry |
| Flint, Alexander | | |

ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS

	Page
Helmer Family Arms - - - -	Title Page
Portrait of Pascoe W. Williams - - -	-Opposite foreword
Mr. and Mrs. George P. Noble - - - - -	59
Gilbert Warden Helmer - - - - - -	81
Mrs. Gilbert Warden Helmer - - - - -	81
Old Fort Herkimer Church - - - - -	124
Col. Marinus Willet - - - - - - -	143
Palatine Village - - - -	Insert following 148
Burnettsfield Patent - - - - -	Opposite above
Colonial Stage Coach - - - - - - -	159

